Congratulations to the June 2012 PORPP Graduates
On the Cover (L to R); Veena Shankaran, MD, MS; Heidi Wirtz, MS, PharmD, PhD; Rafael Alfonso, MD, MS, PhD; Joanna Sanderson, PharmD, MS; Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, MS, PhD; Ryan Hansen, PharmD, PhD; Cara McDermott, PharmD, MS; Joshua Roth, MHA, PhD
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

August 30, 2012

I am pleased to provide you with the annual report of the University of Washington Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program (PORPP), cataloging the activities, scholarship and professional accomplishments of the faculty, staff, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. As you will see while turning the pages of this report, these dedicated and hard-working individuals have made substantial achievements in their respective disciplines, too numerous to list in this brief introduction. PORPP is extremely fortunate to have scientists, students and staff of the highest caliber.

I would, however, like to highlight a few of the more notable activities of the Program in the past year.

- This month, we welcome our first class of Distance Learning students enrolled in the Certificate in Health Economics and Outcomes Research. A total of forty students will complete 3 courses over a 9-month period, all from the comfort of their own computer. The students come from a variety of backgrounds, job settings and geographies.

- With funding from the PhRMA Foundation, Drs. Basu, Devine and Garrison have launched a health sciences-wide graduate certificate in Comparative Effectiveness Research intended to strengthen the didactic curriculum in CER methods for students in the PORPP and Health Services PhD programs.

- This past month we were notified that our application to join the AHRQ-funded Evidence-based Practice Center network was successful. We have joined OHSU and Spectrum Research as partners and will be named the Pacific Northwest Evidence-Based Practice Center.

Our faculty and alumni have been generous in support of the program this year. Last April, Dr. and Mrs. Andy Stergachis donated funds to establish the Stergachis Family Professorship and Director of PORPP. I am honored to be named the first recipient, but readily acknowledge that this endowment creates an enduring legacy for the PORPP program. In addition, I will soon announce the Higashi Family Endowed Fund. Mitch and Mandy Higashi have generously donated to establish a graduate and post-doctoral fellow travel fund within the PORPP program.

This year, we have admitted one of the largest and most diverse graduate classes. Drs. Veenstra, Devine and Hazlet managed to recruit all of our top candidates to the Program. Each of the students is profiled in this newsletter. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedicated support from our program and research coordinators, Penny Evans and Paul Kraegel, who have played a major role in the accomplishments that you see throughout these pages.
Grading Class of 2012

Master of Science in Pharmacy Degrees

Cara McDermott, AB 1999, Princeton University; PharmD 2011, University of Washington; MS 2012 University of Washington
Thesis: “The Impact of Adherence and an Intervention Program on Patient Outcomes and Costs in Chronic Hepatitis C Infection”
Chair: Sean Sullivan, PhD

Joanna Sanderson, BA 2005, Western State College of Colorado; PharmD 2011, University of Washington; MS 2012, University of Washington
Thesis: “Migraine-Specific Health Resource Utilization in Chronic and Episodic Migraine Across Six Countries”
Chair: Sean Sullivan, PhD

Veena Shankaran, BA 1998, Dartmouth College; MD 2002, University of Michigan; MS 2012, University of Washington
Thesis: “Adverse Events Associated with Bevacizumab and Chemotherapy in Older Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer”
Chair: Scott Ramsey, MD, PhD

Jonathan H. Watanabe, BS 1998, University of Washington; MS 2008 University of Washington; PhD 2012, University of Washington
Thesis: “Comparative Effectiveness Approaches to Evaluate Pharmacogenomic Technology”
Chair: David Veenstra, PharmD, PhD

Joshua A. Roth, BS 2004, Union College; MHA 2008 University of Washington; PhD 2012, University of Washington
Chair: Denise Boudreau, PhD

Welcome Our New Students

William Canestaro, MS
Will is coming to PORPP having just finished working three years for Generation Health (GH) where he left as an Assistant Director of Clinical Research. His responsibilities at GH included economic modeling and health technology assessments of emerging molecular diagnostics. His work helped secure strategic funding from CVS Caremark who eventually became a majority owner and implemented a pharmacogenomic testing outreach program in their population. As part of his role in the research division of GH, he helped build a strategic relationship with Harvard University and Brigham and Women's Hospital Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and has several research projects underway including a cost-effectiveness analysis of novel oral anticoagulants as well as a clinical effectiveness evaluation of the GH testing outreach program. Prior to joining GH, Will completed a Master's in Medical Anthropology at Oxford University and his undergraduate studies at Dartmouth College where he was selected for a competitive post-graduate fellowship. Will is moving to Seattle with his wife Sarah, and his two children and is extremely excited to learn from all of the faculty at UW.

Sara Forrester, PharmD
Sara received her PharmD from the University of Washington in 2012. She currently works at The Everett Clinic focusing on Medicare reimbursement and clinical quality measures in their diabetes patient population. Working at The Everett Clinic and the Health Care Authority of Washington, Sara developed a passion for understanding and utilizing health economics to make decisions that improve the health of populations. She looks forward to joining PORPP and working with their renowned faculty to improve her analytic and research skills, particularly in the field of diabetes.

Carlos Gallego, MD
Carlos is a recently graduated Internist Geneticist from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is one of the first graduates of the combined Internal Medicine/Medical Genetics program in the country. He is looking forward to studying the effect of genetic testing in health outcomes and how genetic research affects health care technology implementation. PORPP will provide him with the tools necessary to expand his career in an academic environment.

Zsolt Hepp, PharmD
Zsolt is one of the current Allergan fellows. He completed his PharmD degree this year at the University of Washington. Zsolt is currently working with Beth Devine on a cost effectiveness model comparing the new electronic physician order entry system to the standard written prescription system at The Everett Clinic. He has been interested in outcomes research since competing in the AMCP P&T competition in his second year of
Marita Mann, BS, MPH

Outcomes Research scientists in developing countries.

Nita Khandelwal, MD

Nita is on faculty at UW in the Department of Anesthesiology. She divides her clinical time between the Trauma ICU, Neurosurgical ICU and operating rooms at Harborview Medical Center. She is beginning her 2nd year in the PORPP program. Her focus and research interests involve comparative effectiveness and cost effectiveness research related to critical care. Her career goal is to improve the quality of care and the quality of life of ICU patients by evaluating and implementing strategies that could lead to optimization of outcomes and cost minimizations. She is currently involved in a study that is examining reasons for extubation failure and development and implementation of an algorithm to reduce re-intubation rates.

Solomon Lubinga, BPharm, MSc

Solomon completed his Pharmacy degree from Makerere University, Uganda in 2003. In 2007, he received a Commonwealth Scholarship and spent 1 year at the University of Strathclyde in the UK, obtaining a distinction Master of Science degree in Clinical Pharmacy. He has served as a Clinical Lecturer and Pharmacist at the Department of Pharmacy of Mbarara University of Science and Technology and its teaching hospital, Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital located in rural Western Uganda. Through the PORPP program, Solomon hopes to acquire theoretical knowledge in epidemiology, economics, biostatistics and health services research, and to develop as an independent researcher and health professions educator. He hopes to use the knowledge acquired to guide health policy decisions and to improve access to quality and cost-effective essential medicines and health supplies in low-income countries. He also hopes to use his training to train other Outcomes Research scientists in developing countries.

Maria Agapova, MPH

Maria completed her second year and required program coursework and is looking forward to devoting her time to refining her short proposal topic. Maria is interested in the costs and outcomes of antipsychotic pharmacotherapy in the population diagnosed with autism. This past year she presented her work in modeling long term costs of two competing cervical cancer screening strategies for the country of Ireland at the European Society for Decision Making in Oslo, Norway, and at the Meeting in the Middle in Austin, Texas. Under the mentorship of Dr. Devine, Maria is working on an educational manuscript comparing the Frequentist and Bayesian methods for pooling data across clinical trials of asthma educational interventions. She enters her third year at PORPP as the Comparative Effectiveness Research fellow and also has been awarded the GE Healthcare pre-doctoral fellowship.

Caroline Bennette, MPH

Carrie is entering her second year as a PhD student in PORPP, having spent her first year working closely with David Veenstra on the development of a patient reported outcome measure. This instrument will be used as part of a randomized controlled trial of whole exome sequencing to measure the psychological impact of this new type of genetic testing in patients with colon cancer. This summer, Carrie began working on a cost-effectiveness model of whole exome sequencing and exploring potential dissertation topics.

Chris Wallick, PharmD

Chris is one of the current Allergan fellows. He completed his PharmD at the University of Washington in 2011. He is currently studying adherence and persistence in glaucoma and diabetic macular edema. Chris has had a prior interest in research, publishing eight papers while working in a molecular biology lab at the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii. He was drawn to outcomes research after a clinical rotation with the WHO in Australia during his final year rotations. Chris is greatly looking forward to learning more about outcomes research and finding a focused area for his thesis project.

Current Students Research & Projects

Carrie is working on an educational manuscript comparing the Frequentist and Bayesian methods for pooling data across clinical trials of asthma educational interventions. At the UW she intends to combine her interest in pharmacoepi and global health. Marita is excited to join PORPP and hopes to utilize the knowledge she gains to research optimization of drug use and distribution in resource-limited settings.

Maria Khandelwal, MD

Nita is on faculty at UW in the Department of Anesthesiology. She divides her clinical time between the Trauma ICU, Neurosurgical ICU and operating rooms at Harborview Medical Center. She is beginning her 2nd year in the PORPP program. Her focus and research interests involve comparative effectiveness and cost effectiveness research related to critical care. Her career goal is to improve the quality of care and the quality of life of ICU patients by evaluating and implementing strategies that could lead to optimization of outcomes and cost minimizations. She is currently involved in a study that is examining reasons for extubation failure and development and implementation of an algorithm to reduce re-intubation rates.

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Preeti Bajaj, BS

Preeti has completed her third year in the PORPP program and is currently defining her dissertation research. She hopes to continue pursuing her research interests in pharmacoeconomics, policy and R&D efficiency. This past year, after returning from an internship with Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Basel, she conducted research with Lou Garrison on the mechanisms for rewarding innovation in value-based pricing schemes. She has recently presented her research at the Society for Medical Decision Making Annual Meeting and the Western Pharmacoeconomics Conference Meeting in the Middle.

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Current Students—Research & Projects

Amy Cizik, MPH
Amy finished her first year in the PhD program. She continues to work part-time as a research scientist in the Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine and co-authored several manuscripts in the field of surgical outcomes following spine and other orthopaedic-related procedures. Her first author work, published in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery is entitled, "Using the spine surgical invasiveness index to identify risk of surgical site infection: a multivariate analysis". Since beginning PORPP, Amy has developed an interest in orthopaedic device use in a global health context and was successful in obtaining funding from the Thomas Francis, Jr. Global Health Travel Fellowship. Amy traveled to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania where she conducted a study evaluating the use of Open Data Kit, a mobile phone application, developed in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. There she collected data for a surgical database that tracks the use of an orthopaedic device, the SIGN nail, for femur fractures. She hopes to use this work as a foundation for her dissertation.

Katie Gries, PharmD, MS
Katie successfully passed the general exam for her dissertation project titled Influence of Perspective on Preferences for Prostate Cancer. Katie contributed to work that was presented as a poster at the ISPOR conference in Washington DC: “Psychiatrists’ Preferences for Attributes of Antipsychotic Medications to Treat Schizophrenia: A Conjoint Analysis”. Katie’s qualitative work in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis will be presented as a poster at the ISPOR European Congress in November 2012: “Content Validity of Two Symptom Questionnaires for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis”.

Richard Kim, MD
Richard Kim will be entering his second year in PORPP. He anticipates completing his Masters degree this year and advancing to the PhD program. In the past year, he completed a cost minimization analysis of the HomePAP™ trial, a large multi-center randomized controlled trial comparing home-based diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea versus the standard laboratory-based testing pathway. He also has several projects in lung cancer currently underway, including an analysis of regional data for the effect that visiting a pulmonologist has on lung cancer outcomes. He presented some of his data at the ISPOR meeting this past year.

Cara McDermott, PharmD, MS
This year Cara completed her Master's degree and the thesis title is "The impact of adherence and an intervention program on patient outcomes and costs in chronic hepatitis C infection." She has worked on a modeling project while working as a TA in the PharmD program. As a Huckabay fellow, she designed and delivered a learning module on end of life care for PharmD students, and she has submitted an abstract to the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Cara is the lead author on two publications in the past year, "Advising Patients with Breast Cancer Regarding Aromatase Inhibitors - Dietary Supplement Interactions" and "Cholinesterase Inhibitor Adjunctive Therapy for Cognitive Impairment and Depressive Symptoms in Older Adults with Depression." Cara will continue on in the PhD program this fall.

Norio Kasahara, MPH
Norio will be working on his dissertation research over the summer titled "Assessing the Quality and Price of Medicines in Afghanistan: Improving Pharmaceutical Services in a Fragile State". His General Examination is scheduled for Autumn 2012. Along with the dissertation, he will be engaged in the health systems development project funded by the European Union in Afghanistan until 2014.

Hiêp Nguyen, MPH
Hiêp is entering his fourth year of the PhD program. He has spent this past year working with Lou Garrison and Andy Stergachis on a landscape assessment of health technology assessment (HTA) in selected low- and middle-income countries. Hiêp contributed to the study by reviewing the published and grey literature and preparing a report on Vietnam’s health system and HTA activities. Hiêp was also an author in a poster that was presented at this year’s ISPOR 17th Annual International Meeting, entitled “Developing and implementing patient-resource use diaries for a clinical trial assessing spinal stenosis interventions in the elderly.” He is in the process of identifying a dissertation topic in the area of global health.

Joshua Roth, MS
Josh has been working on completing his dissertation, titled “Comparative Effectiveness Approaches to Evaluate Pharmacogenomic Technology”. In doing so, he has implemented a case-control study to evaluate the association between genetic variants and major bleeding in warfarin therapy, conducted a value of information analysis to assess the value of future research for ERCC1 testing in Stage I non-small cell lung cancer, and has completed a policy analysis about the application of benefit-risk modeling to inform regulatory decisions about genomic tests. Additionally, Josh was a co-author on a meta-analysis of adjuvant chemotherapy decisions in early-stage breast cancer patients following Oncotype Dx testing that was presented at the American Society for Clinical Oncology meeting in June. Josh is defending his dissertation in August, and plans to start a post-doctoral fellowship at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center after graduation.

Joanna Sanderson, PharmD, MS
Joanna Sanderson is now in the second year of the PORPP-Allergan fellowship and will spend this coming year on the Allergan campus in Irvine, CA. Over the past year, Joanna completed her master’s degree in the program, with her thesis entitled: “Migraine-specific health resource utilization in chronic and episodic migraine across six countries.” She also worked on several other projects during the
Recent Graduates in the Workforce

Rafael Alfonso, MD, PhD
As of July 1st, Rafael is officially a Research Assistant Professor in the UWMC Department of Surgery in the School of Medicine. He will work primarily at the Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE) as the Scientific Director under Dave Flum. Rafael is currently working as the scientific liaison in the projects of the Comparative Effectiveness Research Translation Network (CERTAIN). Rafael is also actively participating and creating research proposals in CER and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research for SORCE and the CHASE Alliance. He will be one of the instructors of the Online Certificate of Health Economics and Outcomes Research that starts in the fall.

Ryan Hansen, PharmD, PhD
Ryan Hansen has received a University of Washington K12 Mentored Career Development Award in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research and will be joining the Department of Pharmacy Faculty as an Acting Assistant Professor. During this two-year award period he will focus on gaining additional skills and theoretical knowledge on patient behaviors while executing several research projects.

Joshua Roth, PhD
Josh has accepted a position as the Kirkstein-NRSA Post-Doctoral Fellow at Group Health Research Institute in Seattle. He will also continue his work with Scott Ramsey at the Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation (ICORE), at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, PhD
Jon has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Pharmacy at Western University College of Pharmacy, Pomona, CA. He will be involved with health and pharmaceutical policy analysis, epidemiology, outcomes research and long term care pharmacy practice.

Heidi Wirtz, PharmD, PhD
Heidi was awarded the PhRMA Foundation 2-year post-doctoral health outcomes fellowship where she will pursue comparative effectiveness research in colorectal cancer upon completion of her PhD.

Current Students, cont.

year. The most significant of these projects was: “Patient perceptions of prophylaxis therapy in chronic and episodic migraine,” which she presented in poster form at both the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Annual International Meeting. She also worked on a preliminary cost-effectiveness model for a new agent used for osteoarthritis of the knee. She looks forward to continuing to learn more about outcomes research during the upcoming year at Allergan.

Heidi Wirtz, MS, PharmD
Heidi successfully completed her General Exam in November 2011 and is currently conducting research on her dissertation project titled, “Second Breast Cancer Events in Relation to frequent Antibiotic Use: An Assessment of Risk and the Development of a Framework to Evaluate Detection Bias in Breast Cancer Pharmacoepidemiology Studies”. Heidi is working with Denise Boudreau at the Group Health Research Institute for her dissertation project that emphasizes pharmacoepidemiology and methodological considerations in improving the design and interpretation of real world, population-based research findings. In addition to her dissertation work, Heidi is collaborating with Shelly Gray, PharmD, MS, on a project titled, “Anticholinergic Medication Use, Falls and Fracture in Postmenopausal Women: Results from the Women’s Health Initiative”. This research was accepted to a Paper Session (oral podium presentation) at the 2012 American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Annual Scientific Meeting. In addition to being awarded the oral presentation at the AGS meeting, her project was graded one of the top 50 student-submitted abstracts for the 2012 annual meeting. As the submitter of an abstract in this category, she received a travel stipend from AGS to attend the conference.

Kai Yeung, MS, PharmD
Kai has completed his first year as a PhD student. During this academic year, Kai explored his research interests through a number of projects leading to 5 manuscripts in various stages of publication. These projects, spanning diverse subject matter including asthma, diabetes, lung cancer, reimbursement agreements, renal transplantation, and social values in decision making are united by his primary interest in the use of evidence and analytics to improve healthcare decision making. Kai presented at the 2012 annual meeting of the Academy for Managed Care Pharmacy in a presentation entitled, “Planning & Development of an International Social Value Framework.” Looking forward to his second year, Kai plans on developing further mentored relationships and research collaborations.
Laura Gold, PhD
Laurie joined the Advancing Innovative Comparative Effectiveness research (ADVICE) project in January 2010 and is working on a study to determine whether the use of MRI following diagnosis of breast cancer affects outcomes such as mastectomy rates, cancer treatment patterns, and costs related to breast cancer. For the ADVICE project, she has published a paper outlining the history of regulatory approval and clinical uptake of breast imaging technologies and has another paper describing the patterns of use of advanced breast imaging in progress. She also has two papers in press from the Asthma Insights and Management survey, which describe healthcare utilization and costs of U.S. asthma patients with varying levels of disease control. Laurie’s dissertation work in the Department of Epidemiology at the UW focused on whether occupational exposures to chlorinated solvents increased the incidence of multiple myeloma. She also has performed research on the epidemiology of cardiac arrests with the Emergency Medical Services division of Seattle/King County Public Health.

Julia Slejko, PhD
Julia recently joined the program as a PORPP-Pfizer postdoctoral fellow. In May 2012, she completed her PhD at the Center for Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research, (CePOR) at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences where her advisor was Jon Campbell, PhD. Her doctoral research, funded by a PhRMA Foundation Fellowship, focused on modeling medication adherence in cost-effectiveness analysis applied in the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. This summer, Julia spent two weeks at Pfizer in New York establishing a research project and is delighted to join the PORPP group.

Rahber Thariani, PhD
Rahber is about to enter the second year of his PhRMA Foundation Health Outcomes Fellowship. He is working on comparative effectiveness in genomic and proteomic diagnostics and diagnostic-drug combinations alongside David Veenstra and Scott Ramsey. Additionally, he is also interested in how macro changes in the economic climate influence the healthcare system. He has collaborated with the UW Business School in projects involving technology development, venture capital and entrepreneurship.

David van der Goes, PhD
Pfizer Post-Doctoral Fellow 2010-2012
David completed his time as the PORPP-Pfizer postdoctoral fellow this August. He is now a tenure-track professor of economics at the University of New Mexico. In addition to his appointment in the department of economics, he is a Senior Fellow at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy and a professor in the Combined BA/MD program. David has published papers in Clinical Neurophysiology and the Journal of Military and Veterans’ Health (forthcoming). In addition, David was part of a featured commentary published in Neurology.
The winning paper for the 2011 PORPP Endowed Prize was written by Veena Shankaran. The title of her paper was: “Risk Factors for Financial Hardship in Patients Receiving Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Colon Cancer: A Population-Based Exploratory Analysis”.

The $1,000 Prize is awarded to eligible candidates in the PhD or Master’s program in PORPP, or related fields such as Public Health Genetics, Health Services, Economics or Global Health who are enrolled in a class taught by a PORPP faculty member. The paper must deal with an original health policy or health economic issue.

Sean D. Sullivan, Director of the School’s Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research & Policy Program (PORPP), has been named the Stergachis Family Endowed Professor and Director. The Stergachis Family Endowment was established in January 2012 and is named after Andy Stergachis, Professor of Epidemiology and Global Health and Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy and his wife, JoAnn Stergachis. Professor Stergachis was the founding director of PORPP and former Chair of the Department of Pharmacy. Andy and JoAnn Stergachis made the lead individual gift to the directorship, which enhanced an already established PORPP professorship award. Stergachis and Sullivan helped co-found PORPP in the School of Pharmacy in 1995. The two saw a need for a program that would strengthen research efforts and provide graduate-level training in health outcomes and policy research. PORPP has become an internationally recognized center for pharmaceutical economics, drug safety, pharmaceutical policy research and graduate education.

As the Stergachis Family Endowed Director, Sullivan will have increased opportunities to strengthen PORPP’s significant impact. The endowment will provide him with additional administrative, research and training support. Further, it will help Sullivan and the faculty in the program to build on their legacy of inspiring students and providing each PORPP student with specialized training in outcomes research.

By Melinda Young

**PORPP Endowed Prize Recipient**

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**Dave Blough Trades PORPP for Nuclear Subs**

In April 2012, our esteemed colleague, Dave Blough, left PORPP to work for the U.S. Department of Defense. Dave joined our faculty in 1997 as our biostatistician in residence. For 15 years Dave was a close colleague, and worked with many of us on a multitude of research projects. On any given day, Dave would conduct his own research on multiple imputation or longitudinal methods, collaborate on projects with faculty colleagues at UW or the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, mentor pharmacy and graduate students on statistical methods needed for their research, teach a Biostatistics class in the core curriculum for the Doctor of Pharmacy students, and attend the defense of a PhD student on whose committee he served. Dave was a versatile biostatistician who could easily work on projects across therapeutic areas, from lung volume reduction surgery to prostate cancer, from alcohol screening to risk factors for statin-associated rhabdomyolysis. Dave was funded on numerous grants and managed to deliver on every one. His publication record of 100 manuscripts reflects his commitment to us all.

Dave’s reserved personality belied his considerable intellect and expertise. He was both a mathematician and a statistician by training, having earned Master’s degrees in both, and a PhD in Statistics. He was elected to several national scholastic honorary societies during his training. At UW, in addition to his research with the School of Pharmacy, Dave was a member of the Public Health Sciences group at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, participated in projects with investigators at the VA, and taught in UW Extension’s Clinical Trials Certificate program. Earlier in his career, Dave served as a statistician for both Washington State and Ohio State Universities, Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, and with the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Arizona. He served as a manuscript reviewer for several biostatistics and economics journals and was active in the American Statistical Association.

Setting off on what he called the final adventure of his professional career, Dave, his lovely wife Terry, and their beloved Irish Setter moved to upstate New York where Dave is now a statistician with the US Department of Defense, employed in one of the nuclear submarine laboratories. An avid hiker, Dave traded his summer trips to the Sierra Nevada range of California for the Adirondack’s of Northern New York. We wish Dave and Terry well and miss Dave as a member of our group. We are actively searching for a new biostatistician, but know that we will never be able to fill Dave’s shoes.
**Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research & Evaluation: ICORE**

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has launched a new research institute – the first of its kind among comprehensive cancer centers nationwide – dedicated to health economics and cancer outcomes research. The mission of the Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation, or ICORE, is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of cancer prevention, early detection and treatment to reduce the economic and human burdens of cancer.

Scott Ramsey, M.D., Ph.D., a national leader in health care economics, has been appointed as the first director of ICORE, which is scheduled to begin operations early next year.

“Cancer care in the United States is in crisis. Costs are rising at an unsustainable rate, putting tremendous strains on patients and the health care system,” said Ramsey, a member of the Hutchinson Center Public Health Sciences Division. “The current environment in oncology health care delivery and policy make this an ideal time to focus on health economics, comparative and cost-effectiveness research, and health care policy,” he said, citing the 2011 President’s Cancer Panel report, which highlighted tremendous variations in cancer care nationwide. “A patient’s race, income, insurance, where they live, and even what cancer doctor they first see can change their likelihood of receiving the best treatments and affect overall survival,” Ramsey said. “There is a tremendous need to collect, analyze and provide evidence that supports the provision of efficient, effective and cost-effective cancer care.”

Ramsey and colleagues envision the new institute to be both translational and transformational, efficiently bringing scientific advances to the health care sector, finding and implementing new models that maintain the quality of care while reducing the financial burden of cancer for patients, health systems and society.

**PORPP Creates Two New Certificate Programs**

PORPP will launch two new certificate programs this fall:

- **Certificate in Health Economics and Outcomes Research**
  This certificate is administered through the Professional and Continuing Education Office. Admission is limited to 30 students per year, and this year’s quota has already been met. Students have enrolled from all over the world. Courses will be available on-line, and most of the core PORPP faculty are involved. More information can be found here: [http://www.pce.uw.edu/certificates/health-economics.html](http://www.pce.uw.edu/certificates/health-economics.html)

- **Graduate Certificate in Comparative Effectiveness Research**
  Lou Garrison, as P.I. received a $250,000 grant from the PhRMA Foundation to start an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in comparative effectiveness research at the UW. Beth Devine and Anirban Basu are Co-P.I.’s This certificate is open to current University of Washington graduate students. The grant also included funds for a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship and a Dissertation Award. The first recipient of the pre-doctoral fellowship is Maria Agapova, and the dissertation award will go to John Dickerson, in Health Services. More information about this program can be found here: [http://sop.washington.edu/porpp/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-in-comparative-effectiveness-research.html](http://sop.washington.edu/porpp/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-in-comparative-effectiveness-research.html)

**Student Publications**

**Maria Agapova**


**Rafael Alfonso**


Carrie Bennette


Heidi Wirtz

Kai Yeung

Post-Doc Publications

Laurie Gold, PhD

Julia Slejko, PhD


Rahber Thariani, PhD

Faculty Recent Publications

Anirban Basu


Joseph Babigumira


Denise Boudreau


Brian Bresnahan

Otero, HJ, Chamber, HD, Bresnahan, BW, Kamae, MS, Yucel, EK, and Neumann, PJ. Medicare’s national coverage determinations in diagnostic radiology: examining evidence and setting limits, submitted to Academic Radiology, in press 2012.


Josh Carlson


Beth Devine


Louis Garrison, Jr.


Bernardo Goulart
Goulart, BHL; Bensink, ME; Mummy, DG; Ramsey, SD. Lung Cancer Screening with Low-Dose Computed Tomography: Costs, National Expenditures, and Cost-

Cheng, MM.; Goulart, B.; Veenstra DL; Blough, DK; Devine, EB. A Network Meta-analysis of Therapies for Previously Untreated Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. Cancer Treatment Reviews. March 2012 (E-pub).


Shelly Gray


Tom Hazlet

Jerry Jarvik


Scott Ramsey


Andy Stergachis


Larry Kessler
Faculty — Recent Grants

Anirban Basu
PI, Empowering the Annual Health Econometrics Workshop, AHRQ, 01/2012-12/2013
Co-PI, Innovative Methods for Modeling Longitudinal Medical Costs, AHRQ, 01/2012-08/2016
Co-PI, Comparative Effectiveness of Dynamic Patterns of Glucose Lowering Therapies, AHRQ, 07/2012-06/2016

Denise Boudreau

Brian Bresnahan
Co-Inv. Resource Over-Utilization Due to Serious Alcohol Related Injuries, National Inst. of Health, 2010-2012.
PI, Developing web-based learning modules for radiology in health services research, comparative effectiveness research, and health economic evaluation, Radiologic Society of North America (RSNA) Education Grant.


Beth Devine
PI. UW-Allergan Post-Doctoral Fellowship for PharmDs, Allergan Pharmaceuticals, 07/12-06/14
Co-Inv. (PI: Garrison), Developing a Center of Excellence for a Comparative Effectiveness Research Education Program at UW, PhRMA Foundation, 12/11-11/14
Co-Inv. (PI: Flum), Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program Comparative Effectiveness Research Network (SCOAP-CERTN). AHRQ R01 (2010-2013)
Co-Inv. (PI: Gallagher), Communication to Prevent and Respond to Medical Injuries: WA State Collaborative. AHRQ R18 (2010-2013)

Louis Garrison
Principal Mentor, UW-Pfizer Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2012-2014.
PI, Developing a Center of Excellence for a Comparative Effectiveness Research Education Program at UW, PhRMA Foundation, 12/11-11/14
PI, South African Training for Trainers Workshop and Follow-up, USAID to Management Sciences for Health, 2012-2013

Bernardo Goulart
Co-PI, SEER-Medicare study of physician-related factors and patterns of referral for chemotherapy in advanced non-small-cell lung cancer, Genentech
PI, Assessing Outcomes & Costs of Low-Dose Computed Tomography Lung Cancer Screening in Real-World Practice: A Pilot Study, FHCRC Public Health Sciences Bid & Proposal Project
Co-PI, Outcomes and Costs of Low-Dose Computed Tomography for Early Detection of Lung Cancer: a Pilot Registry Study, Gregory Fund award

Shelly Gray
Co-Inv. Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Registry, 2009-2013, NIA
PI (UW subcontract, Larson PI), Longitudinal Effect of Anticholinergic Polypharmacy on dementia and neuro-pathology 3/1/12-8/31/14

Scott Ramsey
PI, A Study of Cancer Diagnosis as a Risk Factor for Personal Bankruptcy, in response to NCI Challenge Grant RFA
PI, Center for Comparative Effectiveness Research in Cancer Genomics - CANCERGEN NCI “GO” grant RFA
Co-Inv. ADVancing Innovative Comparative Effectiveness research-cancer diagnostics ADVICE NCI “GO” grant RFA
PI, A Multi-State Study of Cancer Treatment and Outcomes Among American Indians, NCI
PI, A Retrospective Evaluation of Patterns of Care for American Indian and Alaska Native Men with Elevated Prostate Specific Antigen, sub-award from University of Washington, CDC
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