

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



THE COMPARATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES, POLICY & ECONOMICS INSTITUTE

THE CHOICE INSTITUTE

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | ANNUAL REPORT 2026



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OUR MISSION

Research: Develop innovative methods and generate actionable evidence about the effectiveness, safety, and value of medical products and services that improve decision making in health care and policy.

Training: Provide transformative training in health economics, outcomes research, and policy analysis to meet contemporary health care challenges regionally, nationally, and globally.

Service: Be a leading resource on the effectiveness, safety, and value of medical products and services by providing expertise and facilitating collaborations at the regional, national, and global level.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

CHOICE is committed to creating an inclusive academic community where every individual is treated fairly and with dignity and respect. We strongly believe that diversity enriches learning, broadens the perspectives of all in our program, and improves our sense of community. Diversity requires an atmosphere of inclusion, tolerance, respect, and equity.

Our guiding principles:

- We value the tremendous diversity of the human experience and believe that this diversity strengthens our communities and our program.
- We believe that discrimination or exclusion based on individual characteristics and circumstances, such as age; disability; caring or dependency responsibilities; gender or gender identity; marriage and civil partnership status; political opinion; pregnancy and maternity; race, color, caste, nationality, ethnic or national origin; religion or belief; sexual orientation; socio-economic status; or other distinctions, is unjust and represents a waste of talent and a denial of opportunity for self-fulfillment.
- We respect the rights of individuals, including the right to hold their own opinions and beliefs, but will not allow these opinions to be manifested in a way that is hostile or degrading to others.
- We expect commitment and involvement from all our faculty, staff, and students in working towards the achievement of our vision.
- We recognize that patterns of under-representation and differences in outcomes at CHOICE can be challenged through positive action.

OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

Core Faculty

Jennifer Bacci, PharmD, MPH

Associate Professor, Endowed Professor
in Innovative Pharmacy Practice (I2P2)

Douglas Barthold, PhD

Associate Professor, CHOICE Endowed
Faculty Fellow & Associate Graduate
Program Director

Anirban Basu, PhD

Professor & Stergachis Family Endowed
Director, The CHOICE Institute

Josh Carlson, MPH, PhD

Professor & Graduate Program Director

Clayton English, PharmD, MS

Assistant Professor

Shelly Gray, PharmD, MS

Plein Endowed Professor & Director,
Plein Center for Aging

Ryan Hansen, PharmD, PhD

Professor & Chair, Department
of Pharmacy

Laura Hart, PharmD, MS

Assistant Professor

Noémi Kreif, MA, MSc, PhD

Assistant Professor

Kyu Lee, PhD

Endowed Assistant Professor of Health
Decision Sciences

Jing Li, MA, PhD

Associate Professor & Associate Director,
The CHOICE Institute

Andy Stergachis, PhD, MS, BPharm

Professor

Sean D. Sullivan, BScPharm, MSc, PhD

Professor

David Veenstra, PharmD, PhD

Professor

Emeritus Faculty

Beth Devine, PhD, PharmD, MBA, MSc

Professor Emeritus

Jacqueline Gardner, PhD, MPH

Professor Emeritus

Louis Garrison Jr., PhD

Professor Emeritus

Thomas Hazlet, DrPH, PharmD

Associate Professor Emeritus

Adjunct Faculty

David Au, MS, MD

Professor, Pulmonary, Critical Care &
Sleep Medicine

Brian Bresnahan, PhD

Research Associate Professor,
Radiology

David Flum, MD, MPH

Professor, General Surgery

Lurdes Inoue, MS, MS, PhD

Professor, Biostatistics

Jeffrey Jarvik, MD, MPH

Professor, Neurological Surgery

Larry Kessler, ScD

Professor, Health Systems & Population
Health

Jeff Lane, JD, MPH

Associate Professor, Global Health

Gary Lyman, MD, MPH

Professor, Medicine

Scott Ramsey, MD, PhD

Professor, Medicine

Monisha Sharma, PhD

Associate Professor, Global Health

Staff

Leana de la Torre

Online Certificate Program Manager

Marina Gano, M.Ed.

Graduate Program & Operations Manager

Greg Guzauskas, PhD

Senior Research Scientist

Linda Luu, MS

Research Scientist

Affiliate Faculty

Blythe Adamson, Infectious Economics

Deb Atherly, PATH

Aasthaa Bansal, University of Toronto

Lisa Bloudek, Curta

Elizabeth Brouwer, Curta

William Canestaro, Accipiter Biosciences

Ruth Etzioni, Fred Hutch Cancer Center

**Yevgeniy Feyman, National
Pharmaceutical Council**

Jens Grueger, Boston Consulting Group

Jan Hansen, Sanofi

Brett Hauber, Pfizer

**Nina Hill, Evidence Generation & PRO
Consultant**

Sara Khor, Spring Health

Zachary Marcum, Medicus Economics

Rajshree Pandey, Alexion

Joshua Roth, Eli Lilly

Carolyn Rutter, Fred Hutch Cancer Center

Parth Shah, Fred Hutch Cancer Center

Lotte Steuten, Office of Health Economics

Sepideh Varon, Novartis

**John Watkins, Pharmacist Consultant,
Managed Care Perspectives, LLC**

Jennifer Whiteley, Oracle

**Davene Wright, Harvard Medical
School & Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Institute**

Kai Yeung, Amazon

**Marita Zimmermann, Institute for
Disease Modeling**

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and colleagues,

Last year, we celebrated three decades of The CHOICE Institute; this year, we began writing the first chapter of our fourth. If our 30th anniversary was a moment to look back, 2026 has been a year of looking forward, and I am delighted to report that the Institute enters this new decade with remarkable momentum. At a time when the policy landscape for pharmaceuticals, health technology assessment, and research funding is shifting faster than at any point in recent memory, the need for rigorous, independent, policy-relevant evidence has never been greater. That is precisely what our faculty, students, fellows, and alumni delivered this year.

This report highlights a research portfolio that spans the most consequential questions in our field: the intended and unintended effects of the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program and emerging Most Favored Nation pricing policies, the hidden financial toll of cognitive decline before a dementia diagnosis, the real-world impact of Washington State's hepatitis C elimination initiative, the value of gene therapies in resource-limited settings, and the promise and perils of artificial intelligence in aging and healthcare. These projects reflect our enduring commitment to addressing complex health policy challenges through rigorous, policy-relevant scholarship.

We extend heartfelt congratulations to our graduating PhD students, Tori Dayer, Benedict Nwogu, Ronald Dickerson, and Karris Jeon, as well as our graduating MS fellows: Andrew Cotterill, Janice Jang, Jonathan Luong, and Jacob Vang. We are equally delighted to welcome our new PhD cohort, Varun Gandhay, Wei-Hsuan Tseng, and Molly White, along with six new HEOR industry fellows and the newest cohorts of our online certificate programs, which this year adopted new names that better reflect their focus on data science methods for real-world evidence and on health economics, HTA, and market access. Their presence ensures the continued vitality and excellence of our academic community.

This was also a year of extraordinary recognition for our faculty. Professor Sean D. Sullivan received ISPOR's Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement Award, the Society's highest honor, a fitting tribute to a career that helped build CHOICE into what it is today. Professor Emeritus Beth Devine delivered her Presidential Address as the 2026–2027 President of ISPOR and was named Head of Department at the University of York's Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. Assistant Professor Kyu Lee received a five-year NIH/NIAID K01 career development award, Professors Jenny Bacci and Ryan Hansen secured a five-year NIAID R01, and Associate Director Jing Li was named a finalist for the NIHCM Foundation's Policy Research Award. Professor Shelly Gray returned from a Fulbright fellowship in Taiwan, and affiliate professor Ruth Etzioni and I were humbled to be elected to the Washington State Academy of Sciences.



Our students and alumni garnered impressive accolades as well. Ronald Dickerson received the 2026 School of Pharmacy Outstanding Dissertation Award and delivered the Graduate Student Class Address at commencement. Julia Fox was honored with the 2026 Graduate Student Leadership Award, Olivia Yip earned the Best Resident/Fellow Poster Award at AMCP, and alumnus Boshen Jiao, PhD ('22), received ISPOR's Bernie O'Brien New Investigator Award, a wonderful full-circle moment for our training mission. Additional details on these and other achievements can be found throughout the report.

That training mission also grew in new directions this year. We proudly launched a joint postdoctoral fellowship in pharmaceutical policy with the National Pharmaceutical Council, whose inaugural fellow, Dr. Karris Jeon, begins this fall. And in December, CHOICE will host the 11th Workshop in Behavioral and Experimental Health Economics here in Seattle, welcoming economists and behavioral scientists from around the world. I look forward to seeing many of our friends and colleagues there.

In February, together with the Plein Center for Aging, we co-sponsored an interdisciplinary symposium, The Value of Technology in Aging: The GenAI Era, and our community was strongly represented at ISPOR in Philadelphia, with 23 posters, as well as at ASHEcon in Minneapolis and SMDM in Oslo. These gatherings remind me how central this Institute has become to the national and international conversation in our field.

I would like to extend special thanks to the Department of Pharmacy administrative team, particularly Marina Gano and Leana de la Torre, whose dedication and behind-the-scenes work are indispensable to the daily operations and long-term success of CHOICE. In an era of heightened scrutiny and evolving challenges to sustaining advanced training and research, the steadfast support of our friends, alumni, and advisory board members remains truly invaluable.

Wishing you all a healthy and fulfilling year ahead.

Sincerely,

Anirban Basu

*Stergachis Family Endowed Director and Professor
The CHOICE Institute*

CONGRATULATIONS, **CLASS OF 2026**

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (HEALTH ECONOMICS & OUTCOMES RESEARCH)



Victoria Dayer

PharmD, University of Washington; BS Pharmacological Chemistry & BA International Business, University of California San Diego

DISSERTATION: *Biosimilars in the United States: Market Dynamics and Patient Out-of-Pocket Costs*

CHAIR: Sean D. Sullivan

UPCOMING PLANS: Senior Research Associate, Curta



Yunjoo Karris Jeon

MSc Health Economics, University of York; BS Nursing, Korea University

DISSERTATION: *Impact of the Inflation Reduction Act on Medicare Part D: Changes in Spending on the First 10 Selected Drugs and Beneficiary Out-of-Pocket Costs*

CHAIR: Sean D. Sullivan

UPCOMING PLANS: Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Washington



Ifechukwu Benedict Nwogu

MPH, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom; B.Pharm, University of Lagos, Nigeria

DISSERTATION: *Therapeutic Innovations in Advanced Prostate Cancer: A Real-World Comparative Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation*

CHAIR: Josh Carlson

UPCOMING PLANS: Associate Research Scientist, Flatiron Health



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (HEALTH ECONOMICS & OUTCOMES RESEARCH: DATA SCIENCE)



Ronald C. Dickerson

MPH New Mexico State University; MA Economics, Eastern Illinois University; BA Business Administration, Western Colorado University

DISSERTATION: *Firearm Injuries and Illicit Drug Markets: An Econometric Analysis of Costs, Violence, and Spatial Dependence*

CHAIR: Anirban Basu

UPCOMING PLANS: Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Harvard Medical School



MASTER OF SCIENCE (HEALTH ECONOMICS & OUTCOMES RESEARCH)



Andrew Cotterill

PharmD, Nova Southeastern University; BS Computer Science, Full Sail University

THESIS: *Healthcare Resource Utilization and Treatment Patterns among U.S. Adults with Essential Tremor*

CHAIR: Noémi Kreif

UPCOMING PLANS: Industry Fellowship Year 2, AbbVie



Jonathan Luong

PharmD & BS Biochemistry, University of Washington

THESIS: *Costs of Care and Healthcare Resource Utilization in Primary Membranous Nephropathy*

CHAIR: David Veenstra

UPCOMING PLANS: Industry Fellowship Year 2, Genentech



Janice Jang

PharmD, University of Arizona

THESIS: *Healthcare utilization and costs associated with switching or cycling to another agent following first-line anti-TNF in inflammatory bowel disease*

CHAIR: Kyu Lee

UPCOMING PLANS: Industry Fellowship Year 2, AbbVie



Jacob Vang

PharmD, University of Minnesota Twin Cities; BS Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin-Madison

THESIS: *Economic Burden of Early Treatment Failure with PD-1 Inhibitor Immunotherapy in Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer*

CHAIR: Josh Carlson

UPCOMING PLANS: Industry Fellowship Year 2, Pfizer



WELCOME **NEW STUDENTS & FELLOWS**

PHD STUDENTS



Varun Gandhay

MA in Economics, Columbia University; BA in Economics, University of California, San Diego

ADVISOR: Josh Carlson

Varun is an incoming first-year PhD student at the CHOICE Institute and a Health Economics Research Analyst at Indracon Access. His interest in the field began as a health economics research assistant at the University of Washington, where he built Markov models quantifying QALY losses attributable to COVID-19 and published in Value in Health. He went on to work in pricing and business development at Pfizer and as a business analyst at EntityRisk, where he developed Bayesian dynamic pricing models and applied causal-inference methods to outcomes-based payment design. His research interests include value-based contracting for high-cost biologics and pharmacoepidemiologic methods for treatment effect estimation. At CHOICE, he plans to focus on applications of reinforcement learning in health economics.



Wei-Hsuan Tseng

MS in Health Policy and Economics, Weill Cornell Medicine; MS in Pharmacology, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University; BS in Pharmacy, National Defense Medical Center

ADVISOR: Douglas Barthold

Wei trained as a pharmacist in Taiwan before moving into health policy and has spent the last several years working with national claims data. At Acumen LLC, she supported policy evaluation for CMS. At The Dartmouth Institute, she used Medicare and Medicaid claims to study how state prescription drug monitoring programs affect opioid prescribing, and to trace a decade of consolidation in the hospital group purchasing market. Wei's research interests are in pharmacoepidemiology and cost-effectiveness analysis, applied to pharmaceutical markets, controlled substance use, and the treatment of chronic and infectious disease. She came to CHOICE to move from building the data toward asking the questions it can answer.



Molly White

MS in Applied & Computational Mathematics & Statistics, University of Notre Dame; BA in Economics, University of Notre Dame

ADVISOR: Anirban Basu

Molly holds a master's degree in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics and a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Notre Dame. Her first introduction to health economics came during a research stint with the Center for Healthcare Delivery Science at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical center, where she worked on a range of projects including drug waste, foster care entries, and maternal health outcomes. Before joining the CHOICE Institute, she worked as a Data Scientist at the University of Chicago, focusing on improving the organ allocation system. Through these experiences, Molly has become interested in decision sciences and the allocation of scarce resources.

HEOR INDUSTRY FELLOWS



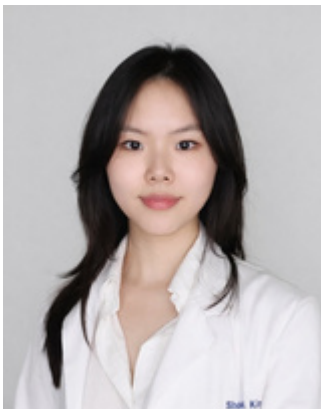
Brianne Burns

UW/Genentech HEOR Fellow 2026–2028

Doctor of Pharmacy, Thomas Jefferson University

ADVISOR: David Veenstra

Brianne is an incoming first-year UW-Genentech HEOR Fellow and a recent PharmD graduate from Jefferson College of Pharmacy. She developed a strong interest in HEOR at pharmacy school through research projects, including a systematic review, literature review, and experience working with claims data. Through her APPE rotations and internship within the pharmaceutical industry, she gained experience in real-world data and market access. Brianne also presented outcomes research at the AMCP Annual Meeting and served in leadership roles within her local AMCP and IPhO chapters. She looks forward to further developing her skills in HEOR while learning from the experts at CHOICE & Genentech.



Minhye Sharon Kim

UW/AbbVie HEOR Fellow 2026–2028

PharmD and BS in Biological Sciences, University of California-Irvine

ADVISOR: Kyu Lee

Sharon is an incoming first-year UW-AbbVie fellow and a recent PharmD graduate of the University of California, Irvine School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. She developed an interest in HEOR through an APPE rotation in the pharmaceutical industry. As a fellow, she looks forward to strengthening her skills in data analysis, economic modeling, and real-world evidence generation while learning alongside her co-fellows and from experts at the CHOICE Institute and AbbVie. Ultimately, she aims to translate clinical and humanistic evidence into meaningful value narratives that inform healthcare decision-making.



Kendall Derber

UW/Sanofi HEOR Fellow 2026–2028

PharmD, University of Utah; BA in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Bryn Mawr College

ADVISOR: Sean Sullivan

Kendall is a recent PharmD graduate from the University of Utah. She was first introduced to HEOR while working as a cell and gene therapy scientist, where she gained an appreciation for the role of advancing therapies. Her interest in HEOR further developed in pharmacy school as she conducted research on international drug pricing, treatment pathways, and policy impacts. At CHOICE, Kendall looks forward to further developing skills in real-world evidence generation and data analysis to improve patient outcomes and access to valuable therapies.



Quinn Lifschitz

UW/Bayer HEOR Fellow 2026–2028

PharmD, University of Utah; BA in Chemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

ADVISOR: Ryan Hansen

Quinn is a recent PharmD graduate from the University of Utah College of Pharmacy. In pharmacy school, she became passionate about HEOR through multiple research opportunities. These included a cross-sectional analysis on medication utilization for long COVID, a retrospective cohort study on naltrexone in pregnancy, and a prospective cohort study on patients using a neuromodulation device for migraine. Her experiences fostered her drive to leverage HEOR to improve patient health outcomes and expand medication access to those in need. Quinn is excited to strengthen her knowledge of health economics under the guidance of mentors at CHOICE and Bayer.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS & FELLOWS continued



Duc Pham

UW/Bayer HEOR Fellow 2026–2028

PharmD & BA in Human Physiology, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

ADVISOR: Ryan Hansen

Duc is a registered pharmacist who earned his PharmD from the University of Minnesota in 2025. His passion for HEOR developed through relevant coursework and participation in the AMCP P&T Competition and was further strengthened by his experiences at a health outcomes company, a pharmacy benefit manager, and in academic health outcomes research. He looks forward to building a strong technical foundation in HEOR through UW CHOICE and Bayer and generating evidence that provides meaningful, actionable insights to inform health policy, improve access, and support better patient outcomes.



Julia Song

UW/Pfizer HEOR Fellow 2026–2028

PharmD, University of Utah

ADVISOR: Josh Carlson

Julia recently earned her PharmD from the University of Utah. She developed her passion for HEOR through research, managed care, leadership, and clinical experiences. During pharmacy school, she conducted a population-based study evaluating the impact of prescription out-of-pocket costs on medication adherence and contributed to RWE projects during her research rotation. As a UW/Pfizer HEOR Fellow, Julia looks forward to deepening her understanding of oncology outcomes research, value assessment, HTA, and RWE generation to support evidence-based decisions and improve access to innovative cancer therapies while learning from outstanding mentors at the CHOICE Institute and Pfizer.



CURRENT PHD STUDENTS



Preetika Banerjee, MSPH

Year 3

ADVISOR: Kyu Lee



Zilin Cheng, MS

Year 4

DISSERTATION TOPIC:

Risk Information in Colorectal Cancer Screening: A Decision-Analytic Framework for Polygenic Risk Thresholds and Behavioral Response to Monogenic Risk Disclosure

ADVISOR: David Veenstra



Shiven Bhardwaj, PharmD, MAS

Year 5

DISSERTATION TOPIC:

Assessing Association Between 2019 CMS Rule and Use of Branded Drugs in Medicare Part D

ADVISOR: Douglas Barthold



Emma Cousin, PharmD

Year 5

DISSERTATION TOPIC:

Selecting and Negotiating Medicare Part B Drugs for IPAY 2028

ADVISOR: Sean Sullivan



Emily Callen, MPH

Year 5

DISSERTATION TOPIC:

Evaluating State HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Drug Assistance Programs

ADVISOR: Ryan Hansen



Manpreet Dhankhar, MS

Year 4

ADVISOR: Anirban Basu



Hui-Hsuan Chan, MHS

Year 4

ADVISOR: Josh Carlson



Julia Fox, MA

Year 5

DISSERTATION TOPIC:

Modeling Peer Referral Dynamics Among People with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

ADVISORS: Kyu Lee & Jing Li

CURRENT **PHD STUDENTS** continued



Sam Han, MSPH

Year 3

ADVISOR: Noémi Kreif



Carlos Pineda-Antunez, MS

Year 4

DISSERTATION TOPIC:

Integrating behavioral measures and screening propensity into colorectal cancer decision models

ADVISOR: Douglas Barthold



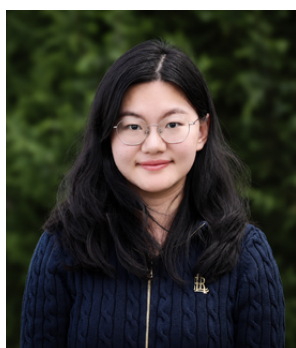
Thomas Hopkins, PharmD, MS

Year 3

DISSERTATION TOPIC:

Assessing the Impact of Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Receptor (GLP-1) Agonists and other Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder on Alcohol-related Outcomes

ADVISOR: Douglas Barthold



Ruihan Qin, MS

Year 3

ADVISOR: Jing Li



Satoshi Koiso, DVM, MDP

Year 2

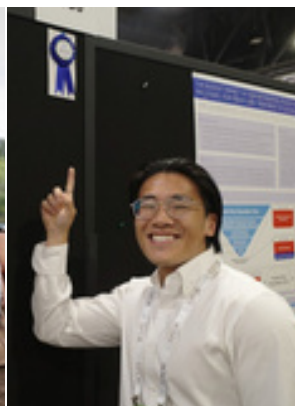
ADVISOR: Jing Li



Lijia Zheng, MPH

Year 2

ADVISOR: Noémi Kreif



RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM RECAP: THE VALUE OF TECHNOLOGY IN AGING

In February, The CHOICE Institute and the Plein Center for Aging were proud to co-sponsor an interdisciplinary research symposium, The Value of Technology in Aging: The GenAI Era. Led by Jing Li, PhD, Associate Professor of Health Economics at CHOICE and the Plein Center for Aging, the joint symposium brought together leading voices in health economics, engineering, and nursing to explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping aging, caregiving, and health policy — a conversation that resonated deeply with the two centers' shared mission to generate knowledge that improves health outcomes and policy.

Three speakers examined the theme from distinct angles. Karen Eggleston, PhD, Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and Director of the Stanford Asia Health Policy Program, presented "The Value of AI-enabled Robotics for Healthy Aging: Some Evidence from the US & Japan." Shuai Huang, PhD, Professor in the Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering at the UW School of Engineering, spoke on "Disease Prediction for Alzheimer's: Biomarkers, Wearables, and Personalized Models." Oleg Zaslavsky, PhD, Director of the Digital Health Innovation Hub and Associate Professor in Biobehavioral Nursing at the UW School of Nursing, closed the program with "Creating Value in the GenAI Era: A 4M's Framework for Technology in Aging."

Across the talks, a common thread emerged: value in aging technology is not just about innovation, but about tangible improvement in daily life. "Value, at its core, involves both cost and benefit," Li said, noting that benefits extend beyond technical breakthroughs to practicality, scalability, and trust, while costs include not just price, but the time and adjustment required to adopt a new tool.

“

In the current era, the unprecedented speed at which new technology develops — including advances in AI — has prompted policymakers, researchers, providers, and end users to look for ways to leverage these technologies to *maximize their value.*

- JING LI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HEALTH ECONOMICS & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, THE CHOICE INSTITUTE

”

Eggleston pointed to an often-overlooked beneficiary of AI and robotics: caregivers. "AI and robotics can bring value to older adults through supporting their care partners — relieving the stress, time burden, or even the back pain of caregivers," she said, adding that "it will be critical to gather evidence about what works in practice — including both the intended and unintended consequences."

Huang framed the goal in terms of dignity and autonomy. "The primary metric should be how effectively a tool enhances an older adult's quality of life, independence, and dignity — according to their own personal goals," he said, cautioning against designs that trade a senior's sense of autonomy for a clinician's sense of security. Zaslavsky agreed that value "should center on functional independence, caregiver burden, and quality of life — not just utilization or cost offsets."

The symposium closed on a hopeful note. Huang imagined a future in which AI becomes "an empowering, quiet partner — omnipresent yet never overbearing," succeeding not by doing more, but by receding quietly into the background of a life well lived: "I live alone, but I never feel alone or helpless."

A recording of the 2026 symposium and all our past symposiums are available on the CHOICE website:

<https://sop.washington.edu/choice/seminars-events/annual-symposiums/>



TOP LEFT: ANIRBAN BASU WELCOME REMARKS AT THE SYMPOSIUM; TOP RIGHT: SYMPOSIUM SPEAKER OLEG ZASLAVSKY CONNECTS WITH ERA LIVING STAFF AT THE EVENT RECEPTION; BOTTOM: SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS OLEG ZASLAVSKY, KAREN EGGLESTON, AND SHUAI HUANG DURING THE LIVELY PANEL DISCUSSION

VISITING PHD STUDENT RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT: **MICHAEL MÖLLER**

This spring quarter, The CHOICE Institute had the pleasure of hosting Michael Möller as a visiting PhD student researcher. Michael, a PhD candidate at the Hamburg Center for Health Economics at the University of Hamburg, joined us from April to June 2026 through UW's VISIT international internship program, hosted by Dr. Noémi Kreif.

During his stay, Michael and Dr. Kreif collaborated on an evaluation of an integrated community healthcare program in Germany. Using longitudinal statutory health insurance claims, this work combines a staggered difference-in-differences design with causal machine learning methods to estimate heterogeneous treatment effects on healthcare utilization and costs — asking not just whether integrated care works, but for whom it works best.

Michael quickly became a familiar face around the Institute, joining lab meetings, journal club, and the CHOICE retreat. After presenting about innovative causal machine learning methods at the CHOICE Data Science Journal, he graciously stepped in on short notice to deliver a PHEOM seminar in May, “Estimating Heterogeneous Treatment Effects of Integrated Community Healthcare Using Machine Learning,” which generated a lively methodological discussion.

Before his PhD studies, Michael earned an MSc in Economics and Health Economics from Lund University and worked at two EU institutions. Between research meetings, he made the most of the Pacific Northwest — exploring Seattle on bike and finishing his

stay with a trip to the Olympic Peninsula. We thank Michael for the energy and expertise he brought to CHOICE and look forward to the continued collaboration— and to welcoming him back to Seattle in the future.



“Turns out presenting causal forest methods works even better when you're standing in a city full of trees. This visit to UW covered a lot of ground: a seminar audience that engaged with my heterogeneous treatment effect estimation and DiD-causal forest work, discovering Seattle on two wheels, one hill at a time, and a CHOICE retreat. Many thanks to Noémi and CHOICE for the warm welcome and for making this memorable experience possible!”

-MICHAEL MÖLLER

UPDATES FROM THE **UW STUDENT ISPOR CHAPTER**

The ISPOR student chapter at CHOICE kicked off the 2025/2026 academic year with a Welcome Back Student Meeting in Autumn, led by President Preetika Banerjee and Faculty Advisor Dr. Noémi Kreif. During this meeting, new and returning PhD students and MS fellows were introduced to ISPOR's mission in health economics and outcomes research (HEOR), the role of the UW chapter, and opportunities for student involvement.

Building on the prior year's focus on professional development and community building, the chapter organized several events throughout 2025/2026. In collaboration with the UW AMCP student chapter, we hosted a joint Happy Hour that brought together students across programs for informal networking and conversations about HEOR and market access careers.

Later in the year, the chapter convened an Alumni Career Panel featuring professionals working in HEOR, real-world evidence, industry, and research science. Panelists shared their career paths, discussed skills and training that helped them transition into their current roles, and answered questions about navigating different sectors within HEOR. These events reinforced the chapter's commitment to connecting students with the broader professional community and supporting career development.

Looking ahead to 2026/2027, the chapter plans to expand student-led programming, deepen collaboration with other student organizations, and create additional opportunities for engagement with alumni and industry partners. We are also exploring ways to gather input from students on priority topics for future events such as workshops on conference abstracts, methods in HEOR, and job market preparation to ensure that our programming remains responsive to student needs and interests.

2025-2026 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President: Preetika Banerjee

Treasurer: Hui-Hsuan Chan

Vice President: Lijia Zheng

Secretary: Janice Jang

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Noémi Kreif



ANNUAL JOINT HAPPY HOUR WITH UW-AMCP CHAPTER

ONLINE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS UPDATE

The CHOICE Institute's online certificate programs enter an exciting new chapter this year. Both certificates feature updated names that highlight their unique focus areas and application in today's evolving healthcare landscape. While the names are new, the programs continue to deliver the same practical, job-relevant training valued by working professionals in health economics and outcomes research.

We also launched new program websites with expanded content, enhanced resources, and comprehensive FAQs. Behind the scenes we streamlined administrative processes to ensure dedicated, personalized support for every stage of the student continuing education experience, from the first inquiry through certificate completion and beyond.

CERTIFICATE IN DATA SCIENCE METHODS FOR REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE IN HEALTH

Now entering its third year, **The Certificate in Data Science Methods for Real-World Evidence (RWE) in Health** builds on a strong foundation while introducing a name that better reflects its focus on modern data science applications in healthcare. Drawing on real healthcare examples, this certificate emphasizes the why, when, and how of data science in health: why a particular method is appropriate for a given research question, when its results should (and should not) be trusted, and how findings can be interpreted to inform real-world decisions in clinical, regulatory, and commercial settings.

The program continues to be unique in its focus on data science concepts and their application to healthcare data analysis without delving into complex coding or statistical derivations. Courses cover fundamentals like working with real-world data, causal inference methods, and machine learning methods, all applied to HEOR. This certificate is especially relevant for professionals in biomedical and life sciences industries who work with data scientists, collaborate with analytics teams, or make evidence-based decisions.

"This program is perfect for existing as well as aspiring HEOR professionals to complete formal training in data science in RWE methods. The faculty is always available to answer questions, and support staff goes above and beyond to help busy professionals manage their work schedule around the course delivery."

Utsav Patel, PharmD

Manager, Clinical Insights & Health Economics Research, Optum
Certificate Alum 2026

NEW PROGRAM NAMES IN 2026

Certificate in Data Science Methods for Real-World Evidence in Health

Formerly: Certificate in Data Science in Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR)

Certificate in Health Economics, Health Technology Assessment, and Market Access

Formerly: Certificate in Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR)

THIS 9-MONTH PROGRAM OFFERS ONE COURSE PER ACADEMIC QUARTER:

FALL QUARTER

Principles of Data Science & Healthcare Data

Instructor: Dr. Beth Devine

WINTER QUARTER

Comparative Effectiveness, Causal Inference, and Real-World Evidence

Instructor: Dr. Anirban Basu

SPRING QUARTER

Principles of Machine Learning & Applications in Healthcare

Instructor: Dr. Noémi Kreif



Courses include recorded lectures, readings, discussion activities, quizzes, individual capstone projects, and opportunities to connect virtually with faculty and peers in optional group meetings.

CERTIFICATE IN **HEALTH ECONOMICS, HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (HTA), AND MARKET ACCESS**

Celebrating its 15th year, the **Certificate in Health Economics, Health Technology Assessment (HTA), and Market Access** continues the strengths of our legacy HEOR program under a name that more fully reflects the breadth of topics covered and the global decision-making contexts in which certificate students work. Students receive foundational introductions to the economic principles that guide healthcare decision-making, the analytic methods that underpin robust economic evaluation, and the diverse approaches used by HTA bodies and payer organizations around the world.

Over 600 professionals have trained in this program, coming from a wide range of organizations committed to improving health, including pharmaceutical and biomedical industries, payer organizations, health systems, and government agencies. Students have enrolled from all around the U.S. and from over 30 countries.

"The UW CHOICE Institute certificate is unique because it combines rigorous HTA and health economics training with practical, real-world decision-modelling applications taught by internationally recognized experts. I would recommend the certificate to others because it provides high-quality, practical training in health economics, HTA, and decision modelling, with skills that can be directly applied to real-world healthcare decision-making and research."

Mahmoud Ahmed Almezayen, B.Pharm, MBA, DBA
Ministry of Health - Egypt
Certificate Alum 2026

APPLICATIONS

Applications are accepted from mid-April through early September. Courses start in late September.

For more information, visit our new program websites:



Certificate in Data Science Methods for Real-World Evidence in Health

<https://sop.washington.edu/choice/graduate-education-training-programs/certificate-in-data-science-methods-for-real-world-evidence-in-health/>



Certificate in Health Economics, Health Technology Assessment, and Market Access

<https://sop.washington.edu/choice/graduate-education-training-programs/certificate-in-health-economics-health-technology-assessment-and-market-access/>

THIS 9-MONTH PROGRAM OFFERS ONE COURSE PER ACADEMIC QUARTER:

FALL QUARTER

Principles of Health Economics

Instructors: Dr. Lou Garrison & Dr. Douglas Barthold

WINTER QUARTER

Economic Evaluation for Health Technology Assessment

Instructors: Dr. Josh Carlson & Dr. David Veenstra

SPRING QUARTER

Global Health Technology Assessment & Market Access

Instructors: Dr. Beth Devine & Dr. Sean D. Sullivan



Courses include recorded lectures, readings, discussion activities, quizzes, opportunities to connect virtually with faculty and peers in optional group meetings, plus a group capstone project in which students apply their learning to an assigned country.



QUESTIONS?

Contact Leana de la Torre, Certificate Program Manager, at torre@uw.edu or uwsopchoice@uw.edu

CHOICE AT ISPOR 2026: CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY ON A NATIONAL STAGE

The CHOICE Institute had a strong presence at the 2026 ISPOR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (May 17–20), with faculty, fellows, and students presenting 23 research posters and contributing to some of the conference's most prominent sessions.

The week opened with two major award recognitions at the ISPOR Awards Ceremony. Professor Sean D. Sullivan received the Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement Award, ISPOR's highest honor, recognizing a career of sustained contribution to the science and practice of improving healthcare quality, value, and decision-making. Read more about this recognition on the following page.

Also at the ceremony, PhD alumnus Boshen Jiao, PhD ('22), received the Bernie O'Brien New Investigator Award, honoring early-career researchers who have made significant contributions to health economics and outcomes research. Now an Assistant Professor at the Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics at USC, Boshen has built a research program developing and applying advanced methods in economic evaluation, health outcomes research, and value of information analysis. The award reflects the mentorship and training he received at UW, including under the guidance of his dissertation chair, Professor Anirban Basu.

The week's biggest moment for CHOICE may have been Professor Emerita Beth Devine's Presidential Address, delivered as she officially transitioned into her role as the 2026–2027 President of ISPOR. Her address aligned with the conference's overarching theme, "HEOR at the Forefront of Policy, Access, and Value," and focused on advancing patient-centered care while addressing international affordability and health disparities. Later in the conference, she also moderated a spotlight session on LLM workflows for global HTA submissions.

Another highlight of the conference was our annual Alumni and Friends gathering — we were so delighted to catch up with everyone on Monday evening, a tradition we look forward to each year.

CHOICE members were well-represented in featured sessions throughout the week. Professor Sullivan presented on value-based pricing and CMS drug price negotiation. Professor Emeritus Lou Garrison moderated a session on equity in health technology assessment, and Professor Anirban Basu presented new approaches to dynamic efficiency in pharmaceutical markets. PhD candidate Karris Jeon presented her dissertation work on projected Medicare drug price negotiation savings in a podium session — a notable recognition for a student researcher.

Jonathan Luong, a UW-Genentech Fellow, earned poster recognition this year, receiving a blue ribbon for placing in the top 5% of posters for "Cost-Effectiveness of Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Pembrolizumab in Locally Advanced Head and Neck Cancer."

Lijia Zheng, a first-year PhD student, was selected as a recipient of the ISPOR Travel Grant. At the conference, she presented her poster, "Cost-Effectiveness of Amivantamab Plus Lazertinib Versus Osimertinib and Osimertinib Plus Chemotherapy as First-Line Treatment for EGFR-Mutated Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Three-Way Partitioned Survival Model."

The conference closed with Affiliate Professors Lotte Steuten and Jens Grueger speaking in the closing plenary on how U.S. drug policy may reshape innovation and access globally, and Affiliate Professor John Watkins contributing to a session on prior authorization reform.

The full CHOICE Guide for ISPOR 2026, including links to posters and abstracts from all our students, is [available on our website](#).



CHOICE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ALUMNI ENJOYING THE ISPOR 2026 CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA, PA

SEAN SULLIVAN RECEIVES **ISPOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Honor recognizes decades of leadership in health economics and outcomes research through scholarship, policy impact and mentorship

Sean D. Sullivan, Professor and former Dean of the School of Pharmacy, has received the Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). This award recognizes a career of sustained contribution to the science and practice of improving healthcare quality, value and decision-making.

Over more than three decades, Sullivan has helped shape the field of health economics and outcomes research through scholarship, policy leadership, teaching and mentorship. Colleagues who nominated him for the award described his career as one defined by “scientific excellence, methodological rigor, and health policy,” and credited him with helping build CHOICE into one of the world’s leading academic centers in the field.

His work has had a lasting effect on how evidence is developed and used by payers, policymakers and clinicians, and Sullivan has played a pivotal role in advancing the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Format, budget impact analysis methods and value-based formulary design — contributions that helped change how clinical and economic evidence are presented and applied in coverage and reimbursement decisions in the United States.

Sullivan’s scholarship is both broad and influential. He has authored more than 440 peer-reviewed publications across a wide range of health conditions, with research that has informed clinical guidelines, payer and government policies, and health technology assessment processes. Most recently, his work has helped bring clarity to the complex and evolving policy landscape surrounding Medicare drug price negotiation under the Inflation Reduction Act.

Just as significant is the reach of his mentorship. Over the course of his career, Sullivan has mentored more than 90 trainees and faculty members, many of whom now serve in leadership roles across academia, state and federal governments, industry and payer organizations. Those who have worked alongside Sullivan point not only to the significance of his scholarship, but to the community of inquiry and mentorship he helped build around it.

“Sean’s impact on health economics and outcomes research is exponentiated through his steadfast commitment to lifelong mentoring to so many people in the field. I am lucky to be one of them.”

-Shelby Reed, Professor in Population Health Sciences and Medicine, Duke University & CHOICE Postdoctoral Scholar Alumni



LEFT: DR. SULLIVAN RECEIVING THE DONABEDIAN AWARD AT ISPOR 2026; RIGHT: NEARLY ALL OF THE CHOICE-AFFILIATED ISPOR PRESIDENTS (NOT PICTURED: LOU GARRISON)

The field has evolved over the course of Sullivan’s career. When he entered health economics and outcomes research, the discipline was still establishing itself. Over time, the questions it raised—about value, affordability and evidence—moved from the margins to the center of healthcare decision-making.

Still, the central responsibility of the field has not changed: to produce rigorous evidence, communicate it clearly and ensure that it is used appropriately. “It isn’t about data or methods,” Sullivan said. “It’s about patients who need medicines they can afford, and policymakers who need evidence they can trust.”

Sullivan’s career has also been recognized through his election to the National Academy of Medicine, designation as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the AMCP Foundation Steven G. Avey Award for sustained and distinguished service to managed care pharmacy. Along with the Donabedian Award, these honors reflect a career devoted not only to advancing a field, but to strengthening the connection between evidence and better healthcare decisions.

“Sean has had a lasting impact on so many lives around the globe, from patients to clinicians, and of course scientists in the field of HEOR. The Donabedian Award is a wonderful testament to his many scientific achievements and ongoing career.”

-Ryan Hansen, Professor & Chair, UW Department of Pharmacy



DR. SULLIVAN WITH RECENT MENTEES. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SPENCER CHENG, EMMA COUSIN, TORI DAYER, KEVIN LI, MINSEON CHUNG

CHOICE LAUNCHES POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL

The CHOICE Institute is proud to announce a new partnership with the National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC), launching a new joint postdoctoral fellowship program. Beginning this September, the fully NPC-funded Pharmaceutical Policy Postdoctoral Scholar position will be hosted at the University of Washington, deepening CHOICE's role at the forefront of pharmaceutical policy research. The postdoctoral scholar will conduct rigorous, policy-relevant research on pressing issues in U.S. pharmaceutical policy, including the impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act, mandatory international price referencing, 340B, Medicare reforms, and related federal and state initiatives, under the joint supervision of leading health policy researchers at UW and NPC.

We are especially proud that this inaugural position brings CHOICE's training mission full circle. The inaugural fellow will be Karris Jeon, PhD ('26), who will begin the position this September after completing her doctoral program in Summer 2026. This position will be supervised by Dr. Sean D. Sullivan, Professor at the CHOICE Institute, alongside CHOICE alum Dr. Jon Campbell, PhD ('07), now Chief Science Officer at NPC. Notably, Dr. Sullivan was director of the program, then known as PORPP, during Dr.

Campbell's time as a student, and served as his dissertation chair, making this partnership a fitting reunion between mentor and mentee. Two generations of CHOICE-trained researchers will shape the next chapter of pharmaceutical policy research together.

Founded in 1953, NPC is supported by the nation's leading research-based biopharmaceutical companies and focuses on generating and disseminating evidence on the value of innovative biopharmaceuticals for patient health. This partnership reflects NPC's continued investment in rigorous, independent research and CHOICE's commitment to training the next generation of health policy scholars. We look forward to sharing more about this fellowship and its research as it gets underway this fall.



CHOICE TO HOST 11TH WORKSHOP IN BEHAVIORAL AND EXPERIMENTAL HEALTH ECONOMICS

The CHOICE Institute is excited to be hosting the 11th Workshop in Behavioral and Experimental Health Economics at the University of Washington's Husky Union Building on December 7-8, 2026. On behalf of the Behavioral Experiments in Health Network, this workshop brings together economists and behavioral scientists studying health-related decision making through experimental, quasi-experimental, observational, and theoretical approaches, with presentations, lightning talks, and poster sessions throughout the two days. Kevin Volpp, MD, PhD, of the University of Pennsylvania, will deliver the keynote address. The workshop is organized by CHOICE's **Anirban Basu** and **Jing Li**, alongside Daniel Wiesen of the University of Cologne. The event continues a rotation of international host institutions; the 10th workshop was hosted by Erasmus University Rotterdam in December 2025.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: SHELLY GRAY COMPLETES FULBRIGHT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN TAIWAN

Dr. Shelly Gray, Professor and Elmer and Joy Plein Endowed Director of the Plein Center for Aging, has returned from sabbatical, where she completed a six-month Fulbright U.S. Scholar fellowship at China Medical University (CMU) in Taichung, Taiwan. While abroad, Gray focused her research on whether commonly prescribed medications contribute to sedentary behavior and reduced physical activity in older adults. Gray's project, "Adverse Drug Effects of Medication Use on Sedentary Time and Physical Activity in Older Adults," builds on her research program in optimizing medication use to support healthy aging.

Gray's work addresses a gap in understanding the downstream effects of polypharmacy, the common practice of prescribing more medications than a patient needs. Many CNS-active drugs, such as sedatives, cause dizziness, drowsiness and reduced attention, and while these effects are well documented as fall risks, Gray suspected a more subtle "pre-fall" impact. "We understand that sitting is the new smoking, but we lack a clear understanding of whether medications may be promoting this inactivity," she said. "I wanted to know whether these medications make older adults so fatigued that they simply reduce their movement."

Taiwan, where more than 20% of the population is age 65 or older, offered Gray a rare vantage point on that question. "Taiwan is a 'super-aging' society," Gray said. "It provided the ideal laboratory to investigate this question, supported by a world-class healthcare infrastructure." Her host, Professor Hsiang-Wen Lin of CMU, is an expert in pharmacoepidemiology whose research closely aligned with Gray's own. The collaboration expanded to include Professor Edward Chia-Cheng Lai and Daniel Hsiang-Te Tsai of National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), with the team drawing on Taiwan's national healthcare databases to conduct granular, longitudinal analyses of medication harms and compare findings between Taiwanese and American populations.

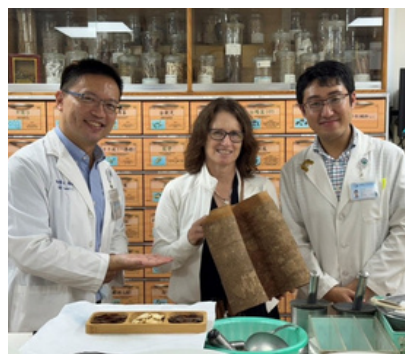
Beyond her own research, Gray mentored pharmacy graduate students through a systematic review on medications and sedentary time, presented at five professional pharmacy conferences across Taiwan, and gave four additional talks to students and faculty at CMU. She submitted three journal articles during her fellowship and has three more manuscripts in progress.



Gray's fellowship also opened new avenues for research on rural health equity. A meeting with Dr. Chen-Yu Wang and colleagues at the National Center for Geriatrics and Welfare Research introduced her to their work using community centers to optimize medication use in Taiwan's aging rural communities, an approach that resonated with her own commitment to health equity.

That conversation has already led to plans for continued collaboration on fall prevention: Gray will return to Taiwan in October 2026 to deliver a keynote presentation at the International Conference of Healthy Ageing and Community Resilience, hosted by Taiwan's National Health Research Institutes (NHRI).

Looking back on her six months abroad, Gray said the collaborations she built extended well beyond the data. "Although I did encounter challenges with not speaking Mandarin, I discovered that true communication often lives in the space between words," she said, "in the warmth of a shared meal, listening to people's life stories, and laughter among new friends."



ABOVE: VISIT TO THE CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PHARMACY AT CHINA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, TAICHUNG, TAIWAN



RIGHT: VISIT TO THE MAZU TEMPLE (CHAOTIAN TEMPLE) IN BEIGANG, TAIWAN



PHARMACY STUDENTS PROVIDING EDUCATION TO OLDER ADULTS FOR SAFE MEDICATION USE. TAICHUNG, TAIWAN.



PRESENTATION TO PHARMACY STUDENTS AT CHINA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, TAIWAN



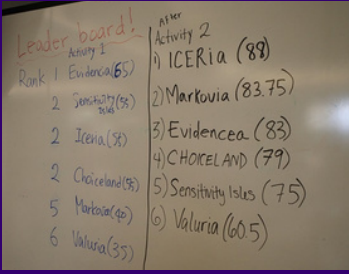
HIKING JADE MOUNTAIN (YUSHAN), THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN TAIWAN

2026 ANNUAL RETREAT: THE CHOICE WORLD CUP

On May 7, this year's Annual Retreat brought the CHOICE community together at the UW Waterfront Activities Center for *The CHOICE Cup: Compete, Collaborate, Celebrate*. In the spirit of the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup, the attendees were divided into six nations of the "HEOR World" and represented their nations throughout the day by participating in a variety of activities.

Teams spent the morning getting to know their "citizens" and rallying around hand-designed flags before program updates from CHOICE leadership set the stage for a full day of friendly rivalry. From there, it was all competition and connection: a Trivia Penalty Shootout that turned soccer knowledge into bragging rights, a Thai Commercial Guessing Game that had teams laughing their way through mystery ads, and a Resource Allocation Challenge that pushed each "nation" to defend its budget choices to the room, complete with a mid-round policy shock to keep everyone on their toes. A running "CHOICE Cup Passport" activity kept people crossing team lines all day, trading conversations and points with citizens of other nations between sessions.

The day closed with an Awards Ceremony crowning the CHOICE Cup World Champions: the citizens of Evidencea — Noémi Kreif, Satoshi Koiso, Brian Bresnahan, and Ruihan Qin. The ceremony also brought the announcement of the 2026 Louis Sr. and Marilyn Garrison Endowed Prize in Health Policy and Economics, awarded to Ron Dickerson and Karris Jeon. As always, the CHOICEies superlatives made their return, sending everyone into the social reception in high spirits, where a Thai food truck, trophy cupcakes, and lawn games awaited on the patio overlooking Union Bay. Thank you to our retreat organizing committee: Kyu Lee, Zilin Cheng, Lijia Zheng, Sam Han, and Marina Gano.



TEAMS COMPETING FOR THE COVETED CHOICE CUP



THE CHOICE INSTITUTE COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENJOYING THE WEATHER AND COMPANY AT THE RETREAT

DR. KYU LEE AWARDED NIH/NIAID K01 CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

University of Washington Assistant Professor of Health Decision Science, Dr. Kyu Lee, PhD, has been awarded a 5-year K01 career development award from the National Institute of Health (NIH), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for research on the role of vaccine antigenic match in improving the effectiveness of seasonal influenza vaccines and the value of expanding genomic surveillance to inform vaccine strain selection.

The NIAID K01 provides a structured framework for Lee to accelerate the development of an independent, interdisciplinary research program. Through targeted mentorship and collaboration with experts in health economics, infectious diseases, viral evolution, and biostatistics, the award supports the expansion of her research portfolio in influenza and other evolving pathogens.

Lee, a faculty member in the UW Department of Pharmacy and The CHOICE Institute, sees the award as a pivotal step in establishing an independent research program at the intersection of decision science, vaccinology, and pathogen evolution. “The K01 award represents an important milestone in my transition to independence as a researcher,” she said. “It provides a unique opportunity to build on my expertise in decision science and simulation-based policy evaluation while expanding into new areas such as vaccinology and pathogen evolution. This interdisciplinary training will allow me to integrate methods across fields to advance influenza policy research.”

Her work addresses a gap that has long complicated influenza vaccine research: isolating the contribution of antigenic match — how well a vaccine strain resembles the viruses actually circulating in a given season — from the many other factors that shape vaccine effectiveness. Using quantitative approaches including geospatial analysis and value-of-information analysis, Lee aims to generate evidence that supports more efficient resource allocation and decision-making for seasonal influenza vaccination programs.



KYU LEE, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Lee's path to influenza research was shaped in part by the COVID-19 pandemic, which drew her attention to the unique challenges posed by continuously evolving respiratory viruses.

The award will support close collaboration with an outstanding team of mentors, including Dr. Anirban Basu, Stergachis Family Endowed Director and Professor of Health Economics at The CHOICE Institute; Dr. Janet Englund, Professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Seattle Children's Hospital; Dr. Trevor Bedford, Professor in the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division at Fred Hutch and a leading expert in viral evolution and genomic surveillance; and Dr. Adam Szpiro, Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Washington. Together, their expertise will be instrumental in shaping Lee's long-term research trajectory.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Lee on this well-deserved recognition and career milestone. We look forward to seeing the impact her work will have on influenza vaccine policy and public health for years to come.



Influenza has a long history of vaccine development, yet continuous viral evolution poses persistent challenges to vaccine effectiveness. The potential for pandemics driven by major antigenic shifts underscores the importance of rapidly translating surveillance data into policy decisions.

This intersection of uncertainty, data, and decision-making makes influenza policy an especially compelling area for applying decision science methods.

-KYU LEE, PHD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HEALTH DECISION SCIENCES



DR. LEE WITH PHD STUDENT ZILIN CHENG

BACCI AND HANSEN AWARDED **FIVE-YEAR NIAID GRANT TO EXPAND PHARMACY-BASED HIV PREVENTION**

Congratulations to Endowed Associate Professor in Innovative Pharmacy Practice Jenny Bacci and Professor and Department of Pharmacy Chair Ryan Hansen, who have received a five-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for their project titled, "Pharmacists in HIV Prevention: Fellowship, Fundamentals, and Sustainable Finances." Bacci serves as multiple principal investigator alongside Dr. Joanne Stekler of the UW School of Medicine, and Hansen serves as Co-Investigator, with additional partnership from Kelley-Ross Pharmacy Group. Together, the team will study how community pharmacies can expand access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) through pharmacist training, oral and long-acting injectable options, telehealth services, and sustainable financial models.

Despite more than a decade of PrEP availability, many people who could benefit from it have not accessed care. Pharmacy-based PrEP holds real promise for closing that gap, offering a way around barriers such as clinic distance and stigma, but it remains underused. As of 2024, not every state allows pharmacists to prescribe independently, and insurers often make it hard to compensate them for their role. Team member Dr. Elyse Tung launched one of the nation's first pharmacy-based PrEP clinics nearly a decade ago, and co-investigator Dr. Stekler pioneered the first telePrEP model in 2015, extending services to non-clinic settings including bathhouses. This grant builds on that foundation, pairing implementation science with health economics to fill evidence gaps the field still faces.

The project is organized around three aims. The first builds on a pilot the team was recently awarded through the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative to establish an online virtual community of practice (VCoP) connecting pharmacists and pharmacy staff. Aim 1 will test that VCoP in a Type 3 hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial across 180 pharmacies randomized to enhanced standard of care with or without VCoP access, comparing time to first PrEP prescription as the primary outcome. The team hypothesizes that pharmacies with VCoP access will stand up their programs and write their first oral PrEP prescriptions faster than those without it.

Aim 2 turns to the economics of injectable PrEP. With the FDA having approved intramuscular cabotegravir in 2021 and more long-acting formulations on the horizon, pharmacy-based clinics need to be financially sustainable to keep offering these options. Using time-and-motion data from Kelley-Ross Pharmacy, which currently serves roughly 1,300 oral and 150 injectable PrEP patients, the team will conduct budget impact analyses to quantify the staff resources injectable PrEP requires and the financial incentives that offset them. They hypothesize that its greater time costs, such as more in-depth counseling, prior authorizations, and more frequent visits, will be offset by higher reimbursements.



JENNIFER BACCI (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)



RYAN HANSEN (CO-INVESTIGATOR)

Aim 3 compares the cost-effectiveness of in-pharmacy PrEP visits to telePrEP. Kelley-Ross implemented telePrEP in 2020, and in the past year served 43 of the pharmacy's 490 new PrEP patients through telehealth. Combining pharmacy operations data with 20 to 25 patient surveys and interviews, the team will assess cost-effectiveness from a societal perspective, hypothesizing that telePrEP will prove the higher-value option: lower cost with comparable or better outcomes.

The project addresses the Prevent pillar of the national Ending the HIV Epidemic plan, with a secondary impact on the Diagnose pillar, and aligns with NIH HIV/AIDS research priorities calling for new prevention strategies and workforce training. It also answers a specific call in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy to leverage pharmacists' reach in nearly every urban and rural community. By bringing HIV prevention closer to where people live, Bacci and Stekler's team aim to expand access where care is limited today — and move the country closer to ending the HIV epidemic.

CHOICE INSTITUTE PRESENTS AT ASHECON ANNUAL MEETING

The CHOICE Institute brought a full slate of research to the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) annual meeting in Minneapolis, from June 7-10, 2026. Faculty, students, and alumni presented original work spanning pharmaceutical access, treatment personalization, provider preferences and health behavior. CHOICE members also served as session organizers, chairs and discussants, helping shape the program and sharpen fellow researchers' work. CHOICE presentations included:

- **Douglas Barthold, Associate Professor** - "The effects of improved access to diabetes medications on risk of Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias."
- **Yevgeniy Feyman, Affiliate Assistant Professor** - "Breadth of Medicare Part D pharmacy networks and association with plan-level factors, 2019-2025."
- **Noémi Kreif, Assistant Professor** - "Comparing machine learning methods for personalized treatment allocation."
- **Jing Li, Associate Professor** - "Competition, education, and altruism: an experiment."
- **J. Felipe Montano-Campos, PhD Alum '25** - "Private choices in public health: endogenous behavioral responses to pandemic risk" (Dissertation Topic)

The meeting also gave CHOICE members a chance to connect with colleagues across the field and lay groundwork for new collaborations, highlighting how central the institute has become to the national health economics conversation.



CHOICE FACULTY, ALUMNI, & STUDENTS ENJOYING THE ASHECON CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS

CHOICE TAKES NORWAY: SMDM 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

From June 28 to July 1, the Society for Medical Decision Making brought together 300 to 500 scholars, clinicians, and policymakers at the University of Oslo for its 2026 Annual Meeting — a gathering built around one central question: how do we make good decisions when evidence is incomplete, the future is uncertain, and values diverge? CHOICE was well represented across the program:

Short Courses

- Kyu Lee, Assistant Professor – "Infectious Disease Modeling Using Dynamic Compartmental Models in R"

SMDM-ISPOR Collaborative Session: *Frontiers in Modeling – Causal Modeling Can decision models answer "what if" without causal inference?*

- Noemi Kreif, Assistant Professor (Speaker)
- Beth Devine, Professor Emeritus (ISPOR Representative)

Oral Presentations: *Advances in Risk Prediction, Treatment Effects, and Model Calibration for Decision-Analytic Models*

- Carlos Pineda Antunez, 4th-year PhD Student – "Likelihood-Free Parameter Calibration for Health Decision Models via Deep Generative Models"
- Noemi Kreif, Assistant Professor – "Comparing Causal Machine Learning Methods for Personalized Treatment Allocation"

Invited Session

- Anirban Basu, Professor & Director of CHOICE – "Cost-per-QALY Thresholds: Supply-side? Demand-side? On the side?"

Session moderator

- Carlos Pineda Antunez, 4th-year PhD Student – "Innovations in Model Design and Development"

Poster Presentation

- Kyu Lee, Assistant Professor – "The potential benefits of delaying seasonal influenza vaccine selections for the Southern Hemisphere: a retrospective modeling study in Australia"

Beyond the sessions, Norway delivered a memorable backdrop. CHOICE attendees caught World Cup fever alongside locals, taking in a lively watch party and even a taste of Viking spirit on public transit — a reminder that some of the best conference moments happen outside the conference halls. From modeling uncertainty to celebrating with new friends abroad, SMDM 2026 was a strong showcase of CHOICE's reach and impact in the field of medical decision making.



CHOICE ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS CATCH UP AT SMDM

THE CHOICE INSTITUTE & WASHINGTON RESEARCH FOUNDATION EARLY HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (HTA) FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

HTA continues to be a key strength of The CHOICE Institute. Our faculty, staff, and graduate students have participated in a variety of activities to push the science of HTA into the future, including collaborations with ICER, our AHRQ funded Pacific Northwest Evidence-Based Practice Center, and many other activities. The CHOICE Institute and the Washington Research Foundation (WRF) have an ongoing 8-year fellowship in early stage HTA, currently led by CHOICE faculty member Ryan Hansen, as well as Clarisse Benson & Meher Antia from WRF. CHOICE graduate students Carlos Pineda-Antunez, Ronald Dickerson, and Preetika Banerjee are the most recent fellows.

Each CHOICE/WRF fellowship project involves pairing a graduate student with prerequisite training in cost-effectiveness modeling and a principal investigator (PI) who has funding from WRF to develop a new health technology. These PIs are identified from WRF's portfolio as developers who are at a key decision-making phase of development where HTA methods may be applied to answer important questions. The projects involve scoping of the question(s) and preparing a modeling analysis plan, building an HTA model appropriate for the question(s) of interest, and then preparing a written report and presentation. These reports are disseminated to the PIs and their teams, as well as the WRF team to inform future growth and funding priorities. Over eight years, this fellowship has provided opportunities for 21 graduate students, several with multiple projects, to polish their decision modeling skills by applying them to early-stage health technology assessment questions.

CHOICE graduate student Preetika Banerjee is currently working with Professor Babak Nazer, Director of the UW's Ventricular Arrhythmia Program and Faculty in Medicine and Bioengineering. Babak's team of surgeons and engineers are working closely with Preetika to design an evaluation of their novel catheter ablation technology for people living with cardiomyopathy. Preetika will be comparing this new catheter approach for use in two different patient populations based on disease severity.

Recent CHOICE Alumnus Dr. Ronald Dickerson completed his fellowship project while finishing his dissertation this past spring. Ron's project was titled "Economic Evaluation of FlexLock vs. Standard Guide Catheter Strategy in Support-Sensitive Complex Percutaneous Coronary Intervention." He worked with Aman Garg, a UW-based Research Engineer and co-founder of UW spinoff Nimble Surgical.

Current CHOICE graduate student Carlos Pineda-Antunez served in a research assistant role with the WRF Fellowship last year and completed an additional project from that time during this year. This project evaluated the value of a novel targeted prostate cancer treatment.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: RYAN HANSEN (FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR), RONALD DICKERSON, PREETIKA BANERJEE, CARLOS PINEDA-ANTUNEZ

Working with Professor Anjali Sharma from the Chemistry Department at Washington State University, Carlos' project was titled "Cost-Effectiveness of PSMA-Targeted 2-Deoxyglucose-Based Dendrimer Nanomedicine (PSMA-2DG-D) in Post-ARPI mCRPC." Carlos shared "Working on WRF projects has enhanced my experience with models for Health Technology Assessment. Creating models for early-stage technologies presents challenges that demand close communication with developers to establish realistic assumptions for the model design and parameterization."

We wish to thank the WRF for this ongoing partnership and opportunity for collaboration between our faculty, students, and health care technology developers in Washington State.



The WRF fellowship was a unique opportunity to bridge health economics and medical technology innovation. Leading the economic evaluation for an early-stage medical device reinforced how rigorous decision-analytic modeling can inform commercialization strategy, pricing, and evidence generation, while strengthening my ability to translate complex analyses into actionable insights for clinicians, engineers, and decision-makers.

RONALD DICKERSON, MA, MPH, PHD ('26)



CAB-SUPPORTED 2024-27 HEALTH TECH FUND SUPPORTS MEDICARE PRICE NEGOTIATION IMPACT & MOST FAVORED NATION (MFN) DRUG PRICING RESEARCH

Current CHOICE Health Tech Fund (HTF) projects, supported by a consortium of 15 pharmaceutical companies within the UW School of Pharmacy Corporate Advisory Board (CAB), provide research funding and direct graduate student support to evaluate the varied impacts of Federal pharmaceutical policy reforms. The ongoing Medicare Drug Price Negotiation research, led by Dr. Sean Sullivan and two CHOICE PhD students, Karris Jeon, MSc and Emma Cousin, PharmD examines intended and unintended consequences of the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

HTF-supported research on Medicare spending and beneficiary out-of-pocket costs after the first round of negotiation found that negotiated prices reduced spending by \$2.3 billion. This result is in stark contrast to the Biden Administration claim that negotiation saved Medicare \$6.0 billion. The study, published in *Value in Health*, also showed that spending reductions were greatest for drugs with lower pre-negotiation rebates and longer remaining market exclusivity, while smaller reductions were observed for drugs facing imminent generic or biosimilar competition. In related work, we published a commentary in *Health Affairs Forefront* highlighting Imbruvica as a case study, demonstrating that the foregone Manufacturer Discount Program discounts may exceed the savings generated by the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program for certain products.

In January 2026, we published in *JMCP* our forecasted selection of drugs for the 3rd round of negotiation, which includes for the first time Part B drugs. A *Health Affairs Forefront* commentary from our team examined the implications of the 2025 One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). The OBBBA has major implications for how the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program targets high-spend drugs and achieves meaningful savings for the Medicare program.

Beginning Fall of 2026, the HTF team will pivot to a new set of projects that focus on understanding the implications of Trump Administration Most Favored Nation policy on domestic and international prices and access. Two new CHOICE PhD students (Ruihan Qin, MSc and Preetika Banerjee, MSPH) will join the team to work with Dr. Sullivan on evaluating these emerging policies.



SEAN SULLIVAN, KARRIS JEON, EMMA COUSIN

UW-ICER COLLABORATION 2026 UPDATE

In 2016, The CHOICE Institute and the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) formed a partnership establishing the first multi review academic site. This relationship has continued for 10 years and 5 additional contracts. The current team comprises Professor Josh Carlson (PI), Linda Luu (research scientist/lead modeler), Kangho Suh (lead modeler), an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and a CHOICE alumnus, and 3rd year PhD Student, Hui-Hsuan Chan. To date the UW-ICER team has collaborated on economic evaluations for 29 topics. This work has been disseminated at ICER public meetings, as part of ICER's full topic reports, in conference proceedings (9 abstracts), and in peer-reviewed journals (21 published).

In recent evaluations, the team completed reviews of ovesporexton for narcolepsy type 1 and cytisinicline for smoking cessation. In the narcolepsy evaluation, the team found that ovesporexton monotherapy produced greater gains in quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) and equal value life years (evLYs) than modafinil plus venlafaxine, sodium oxybate, pitolisant, and no pharmacological treatment; however, at a placeholder price of \$250,000 per year it would not meet commonly used cost-effectiveness thresholds, and the team estimated a health benefit price benchmark of \$50,400 to \$59,400 annually.



JOSH CARLSON, LINDA LUU, HUI-HSUAN CHAN

In the smoking cessation evaluation, the team found that cytisinicline paired with behavioral support was cost-effective compared with behavioral support alone but substantially exceeded commonly used thresholds when compared with varenicline at a placeholder price of \$5,000 per 12-week treatment course, with an estimated health benefit price benchmark of \$1,900 to \$2,700. The team has also recently begun a new review of treatments for hypertension.

In summary, CHOICE's collaboration with ICER continues, providing valuable research opportunities for faculty and students and contributing to timely and impactful conversations about the value of emerging products in the U.S. The team looks forward to continued collaboration with ICER and the many companies developing innovative medical products.

THE HIDDEN COST OF COGNITIVE DECLINE: CHOICE RESEARCH QUANTIFIES THE FINANCIAL TOLL BEFORE A DEMENTIA DIAGNOSIS

By the time dementia is diagnosed, the financial damage may already be years old.

New research led by Jing Li, PhD, Associate Director of the CHOICE Institute, with co-authors at UCLA, the University of Colorado, and Dartmouth, provides the most precise picture yet of how cognitive decline erodes household wealth long before it becomes clinically visible. Drawing on nearly two decades of data from the Health and Retirement Study — a nationally representative panel of more than 10,000 older adults — the team traced household net worth in the years leading up to a dementia diagnosis and found that financial losses begin much earlier than previously understood.

Household wealth begins to break away from a healthy trajectory roughly six years before dementia onset. By the time of dementia onset, the gap in net worth between affected and unaffected households widens to nearly \$125,000. The losses are not evenly spread across a household's finances: they are concentrated almost entirely in liquid, actively managed assets — stocks, bonds, and investment accounts that require ongoing decisions to buy, sell, and rebalance. More restrictive accounts, such as retirement savings that largely run on autopilot, are left largely intact.

"For assets that need to be actively managed, we see a really clear, large drop in value," Li said. "Even inattention — just not knowing when to buy or sell — can lead to substantial wealth loss."

A central contribution of the study is what it rules out. The researchers tested and rejected reduced earnings, rising healthcare costs, and intentional Medicaid spend-down as explanations for the wealth gap. What remained was a more troubling conclusion: impaired financial decision-making itself is the most likely driver. Years before a diagnosis is made, subtle changes in memory and judgment already appear to be interfering with how people manage money.

"Even before dementia becomes clinically detectable, something is already going on in the brain," Li explained. "Decisions can start to get impaired without the person knowing — and often without other people, such as family members, knowing."

The study's most hopeful finding is also its most policy-relevant: individuals who receive a timely diagnosis show measurable recovery in household wealth afterward. That recovery suggests a window exists where earlier detection and intervention — from cognitive screening in routine care to financial safeguards like trusted-contact designations and durable powers of attorney — could meaningfully protect household resources before losses compound.

"People need to be prepared before things go wrong," Li said. "Once they do, it's sometimes too late."



The study was supported by the National Institute on Aging and published as [NBER Working Paper 34659](#), where it was featured in the [NBER Bulletin on the Economics of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias](#). It is now conditionally accepted at the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, one of economics' premier policy journals — a marker of the rigor behind findings that carry direct

implications for clinicians, financial institutions, and policymakers alike.

Li has been invited to present the research to policymakers and stakeholders through multiple webinars hosted by AARP, and most recently at an international multidisciplinary workshop on aging and longevity held at the University of Cambridge — venues that bring the study's findings directly to the people shaping clinical practice, financial industry standards, and aging policy.

Li's broader research agenda, including a companion study published in *JAMA Neurology*, continues to build the evidence base for treating financial vulnerability as a clinical and policy concern, not just a personal one. "This really requires action at multiple levels," she said — from earlier screening in the clinic to stronger consumer protections and financial-industry safeguards for households navigating the long, quiet approach of cognitive decline.

What Families Can Do

- ✓ **Talk early**
Begin conversations about finances & decision-making before problems appear
- ✓ **Designate a trusted contact**
Many banks allow clients to name someone to be alerted if unusual activity occurs
- ✓ **Set up legal protections**
Establish durable powers of attorney while decision-making capacity is intact
- ✓ **Simplify finances**
Consolidate accounts & reduce reliance on complex, actively managed investments
- ✓ **Watch for warning signs**
Missed bills, unusual purchases, or sudden generosity may signal cognitive changes
- ✓ **Use routine screenings**
Encourage cognitive screening during annual wellness visits
- ✓ **Ask for help**
Social workers, financial advisors, & community organizations can provide guidance and oversight

CHOICE RESEARCH FINDS THAT **WASHINGTON'S HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION INITIATIVE EXPANDED ACCESS TO TESTING AND TREATMENT WHILE REDUCING PER-PATIENT COSTS**

It took less than 22 years after the discovery of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) for a fast-acting, highly effective treatment to become available. Modern drugs are more than 95% effective at curing hepatitis C infection, yet the virus remains a critical public health problem. It's the most common bloodborne illness in the United States, and disproportionately impacts low-income people and marginalized communities.

A directive signed by former Gov. Jay Inslee in 2018 aimed to eliminate the disease from Washington state by 2030. The first-in-the-nation plan called for coordination between public health agencies, increased screening, removal of barriers to care and a new approach to purchasing antiviral medications at a discount.

A study led by principal investigator Pamela Kohler (Professor of Global Health and Child, Family, and Population Health Nursing), CHOICE PhD alumni Ashley Tabah ('25) and Professor Anirban Basu found that the plan not only expanded access to tests and treatment, but may save money in the long run. Published Feb. 10 in JAMA Network Open, the study found that total costs for hepatitis C-related care rose when the program was first implemented but have declined since, even as increased screening identifies more cases.

Working in collaboration with the Washington State Health Care Authority and the Washington State Department of Health, researchers analyzed medical claims data between January 2017 and September 2022. Records included medical and pharmacy claims collected from both private insurance companies and public payers. The data represented about 70% of Washington residents, approximately 6-8 million individuals per year.

Researchers found that the number of HCV tests administered increased sharply after Washington implemented the elimination initiative. There was a median of 28,375 tests per month at the end of 2017, peaking at 99,161 by July 2020. The number of tests then leveled off at a median of 55,844 per month throughout 2021. Researchers noted that these shifts also aligned with new national guidelines that recommended all adults receive at least one HCV test. Consistent with increased screening, the study observed an initial increase in the total number of HCV cases, followed by a significant decline over time as more people received treatment.

The study also found that total HCV-related costs spiked immediately after implementation of the initiative, but then dropped closer to initial levels. Total monthly costs rose from \$45.6 million in 2017 to \$70.8 million in 2019, an increase the researchers attributed to expanded screening, which identified more cases to treat. Monthly costs then declined to \$56.8 million in 2021.



STUDY CO-AUTHORS ASHLEY TABAH & ANIRBAN BASU

While total HCV care costs rose, costs per patient declined by more than 45%. Researchers said the decline may be due to increased screening catching more infections in otherwise healthy people, which would likely improve treatment outcomes and reduce associated risks over time.

"As an observational study, we cannot directly attribute the changes over time to the state initiative," said co-author Pamela Kohler, a professor of global health and of child, family and population health nursing at the UW. "However, it does support the idea that investing in screening and treatment of healthy people without symptoms is more cost-effective than waiting until they become sick."

This study was funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. Dr. Tabah, now an Associate Director of HEOR at BioNTech, completed this work while a PhD student at CHOICE through a funded RAShip.

Original story by Alden Woods, UW News.

"Comprehensive health insurance claims data can help us see how patterns in testing, treatment and healthcare costs are changing over time across a large population. That kind of information can help states better understand how initiatives to expand access to care may affect both patients and the healthcare system."

-Ashley Tabah, PhD, MPH, 2025 CHOICE PhD Alum

LOU GARRISON CALLS FOR NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C

An [article](#) published this January in *JAMA Health Forum* outlines a path forward for eliminating hepatitis C virus (HCV) in the United States, emphasizing the need for coordinated, multi-stakeholder action to turn curative science into real-world public health impact. The article, "Stakeholder Engagement for Hepatitis C Virus Elimination," is co-authored by Lou Garrison, Professor Emeritus, along with Bruce C. M. Wang, PhD.

Although highly effective cures for hepatitis C have been available for more than a decade, an estimated four million people in the U.S. still live with the virus—many without knowing it. Each year, tens of thousands of new infections occur, disproportionately affecting people who use drugs and others who face barriers to traditional health care.

The article arrives at a pivotal moment. In 2025, bipartisan legislation—the Cure Hepatitis C Act—was introduced in Congress, calling for a national elimination program and strategy. Garrison and Wang argue that new tools, including the first FDA-authorized point-of-care HCV RNA test coupled with curative direct-acting antiviral medicines make it possible and cost-saving to move from a complex, multi-visit diagnostic process to a "test-and-treat" model that can deliver results and begin care in a single visit.

"Science has already given us what we need to cure hepatitis C," said Garrison. "The remaining challenge is implementation—making sure people can be tested and treated where they are, in ways that are fast, trusted, and accessible."



LOU GARRISON

The authors outline a national framework that engages federal and state agencies, health systems, community organizations, insurers, and industry partners. The goal: create a simplified, equitable infrastructure that brings testing and treatment into nontraditional settings such as community clinics, mobile outreach programs, and harm-reduction sites—places where many at-risk individuals already receive care.

The article also underscores the economic case for action. Untreated HCV can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, and premature death, driving enormous health care costs. Prior analyses show that treatment is not only lifesaving but cost-saving over time, with the potential to save billions in public spending while preventing future transmission.

At the UW School of Pharmacy, this work reflects a broader commitment to public health impact—bridging research, policy, and practice to address urgent health challenges. "Eliminating hepatitis C is achievable," Garrison said. "What it will take is the will to coordinate across sectors and ensure that cures don't remain confined to clinics that many people never reach."

RETHINKING THE COST OF CURING SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Research by CHOICE alum Dr. Felipe Montano-Campos, PhD ('25), Dr. Ryan Hansen, and Dr. Anirban Basu was recently featured in the Fred Hutch Cancer Center Science Spotlight. Their study, published in *Gene Therapy*, examines whether gene therapies for sickle cell disease — treatments that can cost millions of dollars in high-income countries — could be cost-effective in Uganda, where the disease burden is among the highest in the world.

Because most cost-effectiveness analyses of gene therapy rely on U.S. healthcare costs and systems that don't reflect resource-limited settings, the team first built a Uganda-specific model of standard sickle cell care, estimating a lifetime cost of about \$21,877 per patient. They used that figure as an anchor to scale two established U.S.-based economic models of gene therapy — Casgevy and Lyfgenia — to a Ugandan context.

The results depended heavily on how value was defined. Considering direct healthcare costs alone, gene therapy remained difficult to justify economically. But when broader societal effects — including reduced caregiver burden, improved productivity, and fewer hospitalizations — were factored in, Casgevy approached commonly used cost-effectiveness thresholds for Uganda, while



ANIRBAN BASU, RYAN HANSEN, FELIPE MONTANO-CAMPOS

Lyfgenia was less favorable due to higher modeled costs. Applying unadjusted U.S. list prices, by contrast, pushed costs far beyond any plausible affordability threshold for the country.

"This work provides some of the first evidence that gene therapies for sickle cell disease could be cost-effective in a setting like Uganda," said Montano-Campos. "That shifts the conversation away from the assumption that these therapies are simply too expensive for low-income countries." The team argues their framework offers a practical model for evaluating other high-cost therapies in resource-limited settings more broadly. [Read the full Science Spotlight.](#)

THE IRA'S IMPACT ON LONG TERM CARE PHARMACY: KEY CHALLENGES AND POLICY SOLUTIONS

A viewpoint article published in February in the *Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy* examines how key provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 may unintentionally destabilize long-term care (LTC) pharmacies—providers that serve many of the nation's most vulnerable older adults.

The analysis, authored by PhD Candidate Shiven Bhardwaj and Associate Professor Douglas Barthold of the University of Washington School of Pharmacy's CHOICE Institute, Weston Schmutz (Schmutz Health Solutions), and CHOICE graduate program alum Jonathan H. Watanabe (University of California, San Francisco) evaluates how the law's drug-pricing reforms could create significant financial and operational challenges for pharmacies operating in LTC settings.

One of the paper's central findings points to the projected impact of the IRA's Maximum Fair Price (MFP) reimbursement structure. For drugs selected under the Drug Price Negotiation Program, LTC pharmacies could face an estimated 85% decline in revenue, a shift driven by reduced payments paired with already inadequate dispensing fees.

The researchers also highlight cash-flow concerns arising from new Medicare Part D payment flows. Reimbursement timelines are expected to lengthen from roughly 14 days to 22–24 days, potentially creating liquidity shortfalls for pharmacies operating on narrow margins.



CO-AUTHORS SHIVEN BHARDWAJ, DOUGLAS BARTHOLD, JONATHAN WATANABE

The article further notes that requirements tied to the IRA's Monthly Prescription Payment Plan (M3P) are often incompatible with the retroactive billing processes common in long-term care. These conflicts could increase administrative burden and introduce friction in medication access for residents.

Beyond identifying risks, the authors outline several policy recommendations designed to stabilize the LTC pharmacy sector. These include codifying refund amounts to maintain acquisition discounts, aligning reimbursement with value-based care models, and implementing targeted adjustments to ensure continuity of care. The work was supported in part by the [Plein Center for Aging](#).

The researchers emphasize that without policy responses, the future of LTC pharmacies and their essential functions may be jeopardized.

CHOICE FELLOWS CONTRIBUTE TO PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY RESEARCH

This year, CHOICE Industry Fellows Kevin Li and Jonathan Luong collaborated with CHOICE Emeritus Professor Beth Devine on a new systematic literature review and network meta-analysis examining biologic treatments for adolescents with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis. Their article, "Biologic Treatments in Adolescents With Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis: A Systematic Literature Review and Network Meta-analysis," was published in *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* in 2026.

Network meta-analysis is not traditionally part of the PharmD curriculum, but it is a core method in Health Economics and Outcomes Research. As they prepared to begin their respective MS degrees in HEOR with The CHOICE Institute, Li, a UW-Sanofi fellow from 2024–2026, and Luong, a UW-Genentech fellow from 2025–2027, recognized the value of building this skill for their future professional work.

Li first identified a gap in the literature comparing biologic therapies for moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis in adolescents and launched the indirect treatment comparison study. After completing his PharmD, Luong joined the team and helped see the manuscript through to publication. Emily Duffy, a pediatric

dermatologist at Seattle Children's Hospital, contributed the clinical perspective.

In addition to making a valuable contribution to the pediatric literature on biologic therapies for atopic dermatitis, their work offers pharmacists a useful example of how network meta-analysis can illuminate important comparative treatment questions.

"It was a true pleasure collaborating on this important project with our world-class PharmD and graduate students, Kevin and Jonathan," Devine said.



CO-AUTHORS KEVIN LI, JONATHAN LUONG, BETH DEVINE

STRENGTHENING VACCINE SAFETY SURVEILLANCE ACROSS AFRICA

Professor Andy Stergachis has spent much of 2026 advancing pharmacovigilance and vaccine safety efforts across Africa through collaborative research and training.

He recently completed a Gates Foundation-funded landscape assessment of background incidence rate studies for adverse events of special interest (AESI) across Africa, with a focus on vaccine-related events. Conducted in partnership with the African Union Smart Safety Surveillance (AU-3S) program, the assessment mapped available background incidence rate data across the continent, identified critical evidence gaps, and highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen data generation and accessibility. He presented the findings at the International Society for Pharmacovigilance Africa Chapter Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, on May 20, 2026. The work is expected to enhance the earlier detection of vaccine and medicine safety signals, support public confidence in immunization programs and contribute to the pharmacovigilance mission of the newly established African Medicines Agency. Building on these findings, the Gates Foundation has funded a follow-on initiative to improve access to this data for policymakers and regulators.

The Windhoek trip also marked a return to the School of Pharmacy at the University of Namibia (UNAM), where Stergachis helped



launch the country's first pharmacy degree program in 2010 as part of a national effort to strengthen Namibia's health workforce. The partnership between the UW School of Pharmacy and UNAM continued through faculty and student collaborations and was recognized with a certificate of

appreciation presented by the late-Dr. Sam Nujoma, UNAM chancellor and founding president of Namibia. While in Windhoek, Stergachis also served as faculty for a vaccine safety surveillance workshop hosted in collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and the Safety Platform for Emergency Vaccines (SPEAC).

Throughout 2026, Stergachis also worked closely with Africa CDC on initiatives supporting vaccines for emerging infectious diseases, including training pharmacovigilance and immunization professionals across Africa on vaccine safety surveillance. He additionally contributed to the design of a CEPI-supported pharmacovigilance project in the Democratic Republic of Congo to document the postmarketing safety of mpox vaccines during a public health emergency, helping strengthen Africa's capacity to monitor vaccine safety during outbreak response efforts.



PHOTO TAKEN AT THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA: DR. ALEMAYEHU DUGA, SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICER-PHARMACOVIGILANCE, AFRICA CENTRES FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION; JENNIE LATES, DEPARTMENT HEAD, PHARMACY PRACTICE & POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA; DR. BONI SINGO, ASSOCIATE DEAN, SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA; ANDY STERGACHIS, PROFESSOR OF PHARMACY & GLOBAL HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.



DR. STERGACHIS & PARTICIPANTS IN THE AFRICA CDC-CEPI-SPEAC WORKSHOP, MAY 2026

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

JULIA FOX AWARDED 2026 UW SCHOOL OF PHARMACY GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD



This spring, Julia Fox was honored with the School of Pharmacy 2026 Graduate Student Leadership Award in recognition of her lasting impact on the CHOICE community and her peers. Since entering the PhD program in Health Economics and Outcomes Research in 2022, Julia has served as a CHOICE Graduate Student Representative, a member of the School of

Pharmacy DEI Committee, the UAW Anti-Discrimination Workgroup, and the School of Pharmacy Admissions Committee, consistently advocating for a more collaborative and equitable graduate experience.

One example of Julia's leadership stood out to her advisor, Associate Professor and CHOICE Associate Director Jing Li: Julia's independent development of a sexual minority classification algorithm for the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). Recognizing a methodological barrier limiting research on older LGBTQ+ adults, she designed and implemented an original solution now under formal review by HRS, which, once approved, will be made available as researcher-contributed data for the broader scientific community. As Dr. Li described it, "She identifies a genuine problem, invests the effort required to solve it, and does so with the broader field in mind rather than narrowly for her own project."

Julia has also worked to strengthen the culture of the CHOICE community itself — twice organizing and hosting the CHOICE retreat, and serving as Student Leader for the CHOICE Graduate Seminar in just her first year as a PhD student. As summarized aptly by her nominator, Dr. Li, "Julia is, in my assessment, precisely the kind of graduate student this award exists to recognize. Her leadership is not performative or transactional but rooted in a deep sense of responsibility to the communities she is part of. What I find most remarkable is that her enthusiasm for this work is genuinely infectious: she brings unparalleled energy and passion to every role she takes on, lifting everyone around her and making our community a more engaged and livelier place to work and learn."

Reflecting on her approach to service, Julia shared: "I have worked to create collaborative and inclusive environments where students and researchers from diverse backgrounds can succeed." That same care extends to her fellow students. Fellow CHOICE PhD student Yunjoo Karris Jeon nominated Julia for the way she supported students balancing caregiving responsibilities alongside their doctoral work: "She listened with genuine openness, created space for us to feel seen, and helped transform what felt like an individual burden into a shared conversation... That kind of advocacy, grounded in empathy rather than personal stake, reflects something essential to who she is."

Asked about the recognition, Julia said: "I am grateful for the opportunity to continue contributing to the School of Pharmacy community through research, service, and advocacy. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve and lead my community."

TOM HOPKINS PRESENTS COST-EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH ON AUD TREATMENT AT RSA 2026

In June, at the Research Society on Alcohol Annual Meeting in San Antonio, 3rd year CHOICE PhD student Thomas Hopkins presented a poster on a timely question in alcohol use disorder (AUD) treatment: Is long-acting injectable naltrexone (LAI-NTX) cost-effective compared to the daily oral formulation (PO-NTX)?

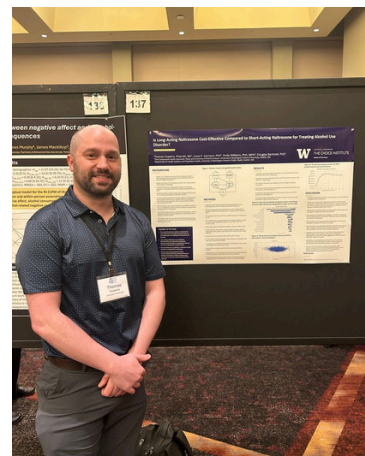
Using a Markov model with a lifetime horizon, Tom and his co-authors— Louis P. Garrison, Emily Williams, and Douglas Barthold — assessed direct medical costs and quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) across five health states that capture alcohol use and its sequelae. Their base case analysis found that LAI-NTX was dominated by PO-NTX under current pricing, a result driven largely by the significant cost differential between the two formulations.

The research also points to an important gap: existing evidence doesn't yet adequately capture the adherence advantages of long-acting formulations or variation across patient subpopulations.

Those are precisely the factors that make LAI-NTX clinically compelling in the real world. Tom's work lays the foundation for future cost-effectiveness analyses that can account for these dynamics.

"Additional analyses are underway to address the impact of medication adherence and drug pricing changes," Hopkins said.

"In the context of new medications being potentially repurposed for alcohol use disorder and other addictions, these results underscore the importance of including real-world factors, such as adherence, into the cost-effectiveness framework."



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS continued

2026 LOUIS SR. AND MARILYN GARRISON ENDOWED PRIZE IN HEALTH POLICY AND ECONOMICS

On behalf of Professor Emeritus Lou Garrison and his wife Fran, we are pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Louis Sr. and Marilyn Garrison Endowed Prize in Health Policy and Economics. Lou and Fran established the award two decades ago to honor Lou's parents, Louis Sr. and Marilyn, who never had the chance to attend college themselves but made sure Lou and his two sisters did. Lou's own path into health economics began in 1975 as a teaching assistant in Victor Fuchs's health economics course at Stanford — the start of a career now spanning fifty years, shaped along the way by mentors including Fuchs (his dissertation advisor), Georgetown's Doug Brown, and Gail Wilensky, his boss at Project HOPE. Each year, Lou and Fran congratulate everyone who submits a paper for the prize and thank them for taking on some of the hardest questions in health policy. This year, a CHOICE faculty committee chaired by Dr. Douglas Barthold selected two papers to tie for the top prize of \$700 each. Lou attended this year's CHOICE Retreat to present the award in person, a tradition that means as much to him as it does to the recipients. Handing over a prize named for his parents, in the company of the students and faculty carrying that work forward today, is exactly the moment he and Fran hoped the endowment would create.



Ronald Dickerson

2026 PhD Graduate

Paper Title: *County-Level 30-Day Firearm Injury Treatment Costs in the United States: Implications for Trauma-System Planning and Payment Geography*



Yunjoo Karris Jeon

2026 PhD Graduate

Paper Title: *Spending Impact of the First Ten Drugs Selected for Medicare Drug Price Negotiation in the US*

THREE CHOICE STUDENTS AWARDED PLEIN CENTER FOR AGING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Plein Center for Aging supports research that improves the health and well-being of older adults. Each year, the center awards pilot funding to graduate students whose work advances this mission. This year, three CHOICE Institute students received Plein Center scholarships to support their research on aging-related health policy and economics.



Janice Jang

2nd Year MS Fellow

Project Title: *Healthcare Utilization and Economic Burden of Prolonged Anti-TNF Therapy in Older Adults with Inflammatory Bowel Disease*

Janice Jang first became interested in medication use among older adults during an internship at the Arizona Poison Center, where she spoke directly with older patients and caregivers about their medication concerns. That interest now anchors her Plein Center project, a retrospective cohort study using IBM MarketScan Commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid data from 2016 to 2024. Working with adults age 60 and older with inflammatory bowel disease, Janice is comparing patients who cycle within the same class of anti-TNF therapy against those who switch to a biologic with a different mechanism of action. Her first aim examines differences in healthcare utilization and costs between the two groups, while her second aim looks at how each strategy affects persistence of corticosteroid use. The findings stand to inform treatment decisions for an aging IBD population that is often underrepresented in clinical trials.



Lijia Zheng

2nd Year PhD Student

Project Title: *Financial Toxicity After Serious Illness: Medical Debt, Financial Coping, and Medication Underuse Among Older Adults*

At CHOICE, Lijia Zheng is currently developing decision-analytic work on pharmacist-led deprescribing of fall-risk-increasing drugs in older adults, research that has sharpened her interest in the broader financial pressures aging patients face after a serious health event. Her broader aging research uses longitudinal nursing-home data to examine multimorbidity, functional and cognitive decline, and hospice and end-of-life care among residents with dementia or cognitive impairment. Her Plein Center project extends this focus to the financial side of serious illness, using pooled National Financial Capability Study survey data to build a financial coping index and examine its relationship to medical debt and medication underuse among adults age 50 and older. By comparing patterns across midlife and older adults, Lijia's work aims to shed light on how financial strain shapes medication decisions after a serious health event.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS continued

PLEIN CENTER FOR AGING SCHOLARSHIPS



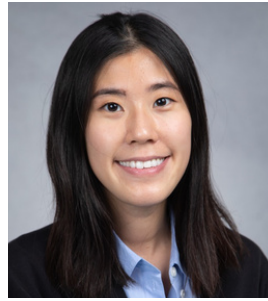
Hui-Hsuan Chan

4th Year PhD Student

Project Title: *Characterizing Healthcare Utilization and Expenditures Among Older Adults with Obesity*

Hui-Hsuan Chan came to the CHOICE Institute from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she earned a Master of Health Science in Health Economics and Outcomes Research along with a certificate in Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety. Her Plein Center project builds directly on her dissertation research into GLP-1 receptor agonist use among older adults with obesity, using national MEPS data to characterize how healthcare utilization and expenditures differ across this population. The timing is notable: CMS is expanding Medicare Part D coverage of GLP-1 receptor agonists for obesity in mid-2026, making Hui-Hsuan's findings especially relevant to policymakers. Beyond her dissertation, she has contributed to ICER health technology assessment reports on COPD and spinal muscular atrophy, studied unrelated medical costs and dynamic efficiency, and helped build a decision-analytic cohort model for early genetic risk detection. Her work has been published in a peer-reviewed journal, is currently under review at another, and has been presented at both the ISPOR Annual Meeting and ISPOR Europe. She hopes to build a career in health sciences research that informs clinical decision-making and aging policy in both the United States and Taiwan.

CHOICE FELLOW RECOGNIZED WITH BEST RESIDENT/FELLOW POSTER AWARD AT AMCP



Olivia Yip

2nd year MS Fellow

Project Title: *Healthcare Resource Utilization and Costs Associated with Depression Among People with Alzheimer's Disease: A Retrospective Cohort Study*

Congratulations to recent AbbVie HEOR Fellow, Olivia Yip, PharmD, MS, whose MS thesis research earned the Best Resident/Fellow Poster Award at the AMCP Annual Meeting in Nashville. Her poster, "Healthcare Resource Utilization and Costs Associated with Depression Among People with Alzheimer's Disease: A Retrospective Cohort Study," was selected as the top submission in the AMCP Foundation Best Poster Competition.

This research was completed during year one of her fellowship as her Master's thesis, with guidance from her thesis committee: Drs. Kyu Lee, PhD, and Clayton English, PharmD, MS. The poster and recorded presentation are [available online](#).

About this recognition, Olivia reflected, "This project represents my thesis work, and I'm incredibly grateful to my coauthors and collaborators for their guidance, support, and teamwork—this truly wouldn't have been possible without you." After completing her fellowship this year, Olivia has begun the next step of her career as a Senior HEOR Specialist at MiniMed.

CHOICE PHD STUDENTS PRESENT AT 2025 APPAM CONFERENCE

CHOICE PhD students Julia Fox and Zilin Cheng presented their research at the 2025 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) conference in Seattle this November, in a session chaired by their advisor, Associate Professor and CHOICE Associate Director Jing Li. The presentations marked a milestone for both students — their first podium talks at a conference with assigned discussants. Julia presented "Disparities in Preventive Healthcare Utilization and Health Outcomes Among Sexual Minority and Heterosexual Older Adults," co-authored with Laura Hart and Dr. Li, while Zilin presented "Medicare Reimbursement for Advance Care Planning and Presence of Advance Directives: Evidence from Health and Retirement Study-Medicare Linked Data," co-authored with Dr. Li. Both delivered strong presentations and fielded thoughtful questions from discussants and audience members alike.



ZILIN CHENG (TOP) AND JULIA FOX (BOTTOM) PRESENT AT APPAM 2025 IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS continued

RONALD DICKERSON HONORED AS 2026 RECIPIENT OF OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD AND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY GRADUATE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Ronald Dickerson, PhD ('26), has been named the recipient of the 2026 School of Pharmacy Outstanding Dissertation Award, recognizing the quality, innovation, and policy relevance of his doctoral research. His dissertation, *Firearm Injuries and Illicit Drug Markets: An Econometric Analysis of Costs, Violence, and Spatial Dependence*, addresses two of the most persistent gaps in the evidence base on gun violence: what it costs to treat a firearm injury and why those costs vary so sharply by geography, and what upstream economic forces — specifically illicit drug prices — are associated with the violence behind those injuries in the first place.

Drawing on more than sixty thousand treated patients in the Komodo Healthcare Map, Ron produced the first population-calibrated, county-level estimates of 30-day firearm-injury treatment costs in the United States, using inverse-probability weighting to correct for uneven insurance coverage and Bayesian spatiotemporal smoothing to generate model-based estimates in low-volume counties. In a companion analysis spanning 28 major U.S. cities, he used supply-side drug seizures as an instrumental variable to examine the relationship between illicit drug prices and firearm homicide rates.

The findings add important nuance to how gunshot-wound costs should be understood. Rather than reflecting only who gets injured or how severely, much of the county-to-county variation in paid treatment costs is associated with how local health systems and payment geography are organized — with counties near the top of the distribution running roughly 44% higher than those near the bottom, even after accounting for demographics, injury burden, and hospital capacity. On the drug-market side, periods of tighter drug markets were associated with lower firearm homicide rates, most clearly for stimulants, a pattern that emerged most consistently once the spatial structure of the data was accounted for.

Ron's dissertation chair, Professor and CHOICE Institute Director Anirban Basu, described it as one of the strongest dissertations he has supervised: "He identifies where existing methods fall short and builds the right tools to close the gap. On originality, technical depth, substantive importance, policy reach, productivity, independence, and trajectory, Ron's dissertation is among the strongest I have supervised."

Ron received the award at the School of Pharmacy's graduation ceremony, where he also delivered the Graduate Student Class Address on behalf of the Class of 2026 — a fitting close to a defense season that, by his own account, was very much a family affair. In his remarks, Ron recalled a conversation with his mother just after his dissertation defense: she told him she felt like she had defended a dissertation too, having absorbed every stressful update, revision, and deadline right alongside him. She was in the

audience that afternoon to watch him take the stage twice — once to accept the Outstanding Dissertation Award and once to speak to his fellow graduates. Quoting Adam Smith's observation that "the great secret of education is to direct vanity to proper objects," Ron closed by urging his fellow graduates to aim their ambition somewhere useful: toward their patients, their communities, and the people their research and practice ultimately serve — a message that echoed his dissertation's throughline that behind every dataset and every policy question are human lives.

Ron's work has already earned recognition beyond the School: his county-level cost analysis received the 2026 Garrison Endowed Prize in Health Policy and Economics, and this fall he joins the Smith Center for Outcomes Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School as a postdoctoral fellow in health economics and decision science. Congratulations, Ron, on this well-deserved recognition.



RONALD DICKERSON GIVES THE GRADUATE STUDENT ADDRESS AT THE 2026 UW SCHOOL OF PHARMACY GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONY



LEFT: RON PRESENTED WITH THE OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD BY ASSOCIATE DEAN OF RESEARCH & GRADUATE PROGRAMS, DR. RHEEM TOTAH; RIGHT: RON'S ADVISOR, ANIRBAN BASU, CELEBRATING AFTER THE CEREMONY ALONGSIDE RON & HIS PROUD MOM

AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: **FACULTY**

BETH DEVINE NAMED **HEAD OF DEPARTMENT AND PROFESSOR OF EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS AT UNIVERSITY OF YORK CENTRE FOR REVIEWS AND DISSEMINATION**



Professor Emeritus Beth Devine has been named Professor of Evidence Synthesis and Head of Department at the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) at the University of York in the UK, with a four-year appointment beginning this September. CRD is a multidisciplinary research department, largely funded by the UK's National Institute for Health Research, that conducts technology assessment reviews and evidence synthesis to inform policy for NICE and other UK health agencies, and works closely with the York Centre for Health Economics, an institution well known to many at CHOICE. In the role, Beth will help lead CRD's strategic direction, strengthen its ties to the Centre for Health Economics, mentor junior faculty, and expand her own methodological work in network meta-analysis and quantitative bias adjustment in the context of AI, all while continuing to promote CRD's research and DEI mission to broader audiences. Beth's home base remains in Seattle with UW and CHOICE, and she looks forward to continued collaboration with the CHOICE community and to visiting when she's in town.

DOUGLAS BARTHOLD PRESENTS AT **CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE'S PANEL OF HEALTH ADVISERS**



In September 2025, Dr. Douglas Barthold presented at the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Health Advisers annual meeting in Washington DC. This seminar focused on interventions that can be used to prevent dementia. Dr. Barthold presented new results from simulations that examine the effects of diabetes management on long term risk of dementia. Conclusions emphasize that management of chronic conditions in midlife is a promising avenue for dementia prevention, but effective interventions require adherence to therapies and efficient targeting of high risk individuals.

ANIRBAN BASU AND RUTH ETZIONI ELECTED TO **THE WASHINGTON STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**



CHOICE is delighted to celebrate two members of its community elected to the Washington State Academy of Sciences' 2026 class. Anirban Basu, professor and Stergachis Family Endowed Director of the CHOICE Institute, was recognized for pioneering contributions to health economics, work that has advanced the understanding of personalized treatment effects, cost-effectiveness, and the value of health information, shaping national drug-pricing policy, international conversations about innovation, and the scientific foundations of precision medicine. The honor reflects not only the reach of his scholarship but his commitment to helping policymakers ground complex decisions in

the best available evidence. Ruth Etzioni, a CHOICE affiliate faculty member and professor in the Public Health Sciences Division at Fred Hutch Cancer Center and the University of Washington, was recognized for pioneering statistical models that have transformed cancer early detection and screening policy, reshaping national and global guidelines, advancing more equitable public health decision-making, and strengthening the evidence base for cancer prevention and care. She was also honored for exceptional leadership, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and mentorship that have influenced generations of scientists. Congratulations to both on this distinguished recognition.

AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: **FACULTY** continued

JING LI RECOGNIZED AS **FINALIST FOR NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY AWARD**



Dr. Jing Li, Associate Professor of Health Economics and Associate Director of the CHOICE Institute, was selected as a finalist—alongside her co-authors—for the [National Institute for Health Care Management \(NIHCM\) Foundation's Policy Research Award](#). The recognition honors exceptional research that advances evidence-based health policy and contributes to improving the U.S. health care system. The finalist paper, "[Nothing for something: Marketing cancer drugs to physicians increases prescribing without improving mortality](#)," was published in February 2025 in the *Journal of Public Economics*. Using Medicare data on physician-administered cancer drugs, the study examines the impact of pharmaceutical marketing on physician prescribing behavior, health care spending, and patient outcomes. The researchers find that marketing efforts directed at physicians increase the prescribing of cancer drugs and overall spending, without corresponding improvements in patient mortality. These findings raise important questions about value in cancer care and offer timely insights for policymakers and health system leaders working to align incentives with patient-centered outcomes and cost-effective care. The NIHCM Foundation's annual awards spotlight influential work that informs health policy and public understanding of health care issues. CHOICE Institute leadership and faculty are proud to see Dr. Li's scholarship recognized among this distinguished group of finalists, underscoring the Institute's commitment to rigorous research that informs real-world decision-making.

ANIRBAN BASU RECEIVES **2025 HEOR EXCELLENCE APPLICATION AWARD**



ANIRBAN BASU RECEIVES HIS AWARD FROM ISPOR PRESIDENT (2025-2026) UWE SIEBERT

Anirban Basu, Stergachis Family Endowed Director and Professor of Health Economics, received the 2025 Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) Excellence–Application Award from ISPOR. The award recognizes Basu's paper, "[Gene Therapy Versus Common Care for Eligible Individuals With Sickle Cell Disease in the United States](#)," which was developed in collaboration with faculty, students, and postdoctoral researchers at the CHOICE Institute and funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Cure Sickle Cell Initiative. The study was published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* and explores the comparative impact of gene therapy versus standard care for individuals with sickle cell disease in the U.S. Basu was acknowledged during the ISPOR Awards Ceremony at ISPOR Europe in November 2025. This award is given to research that demonstrates practical application of health outcomes research and is expected to influence health policy or healthcare decision-making. ISPOR gives preference to work that applies health economics methods to areas such as health technology assessment, policy evaluation, and other topics aligned with the Society's mission.



ANIRBAN BASU & BOSHEN JIAO

Also at the ISPOR Europe meeting, Dr. Boshen Jiao, PhD ('22) was presented the ISPOR Award for Excellence in Methodology of HEOR. This award was given in recognition of his dissertation research, "Evaluating Policies of Expanding Versus Restricting First-Line Treatment Choices: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Framework," completed while a PhD student at The CHOICE Institute with Dr. Basu. This was a memorable full-circle mentorship moment for both and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together on this global stage.

FACULTY RESEARCH EARNS **NATIONAL RECOGNITION AT APHA**



Drs. Jennifer Bacci, Clayton English, and Ryan Hansen received the 2026 American Pharmacists Association (APHA) Featured Research and Science Poster Award for their poster, "Developing Community Pharmacy Models of Care to Expand Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder," which was selected as one of ten featured posters at the Annual Meeting. Congratulations!

AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: **FACULTY** continued

CHOICE FACULTY JOIN **GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS ON DRUG PRICING AND VALUE IN BRAZIL AND CHINA**



LOU GARRISON & SEAN SULLIVAN PRESENTING AT THE DRUG PRICING WORKSHOP IN BRAZIL



LOU GARRISON PRESENTING TO TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

This spring, CHOICE faculty carried CHOICE's work on drug pricing and value assessment to two unique global audiences. In March, Professor Emeritus Lou Garrison and Professor Sean Sullivan spoke virtually in the same session of an international workshop on drug pricing held in Brasília, convened as Brazil considers new pharmaceutical pricing regulations. Sullivan presented on "Why International Price Referencing and MFN Policies Can Fail: Lessons from Europe," while Garrison spoke on "Value-Based Pricing for Emerging Gene Therapies: Is There an Economic Justification for a Higher Cost-Effectiveness Threshold?" Their joint appearance offered Brazilian policymakers a European and American perspective on the risks and trade-offs of importing foreign pricing models. The following month, Garrison delivered a 1.5-hour lecture to more than 50 graduate students at Tsinghua University in Beijing, at the invitation of his colleague Dr. Chen Yi. His talk, "Economics of Global Biopharmaceutical Market Design: Value, Health Technology Assessment, Differential Contribution, Access, and Innovation," traced how pricing and value frameworks translate — or fail to translate — across health systems. Garrison closed with photos from his first visit to China in 2009, when he presented on Markov modeling to the country's Central Drug Committee, a full-circle moment nearly two decades in the making. Together, these two engagements reflect CHOICE's ongoing participation in the global exchange of ideas on drug pricing and access to innovative medicines.

CHOICE FACULTY HOST FULBRIGHT OUTREACH LECTURER DR. ALEXANDER KOSTYUK

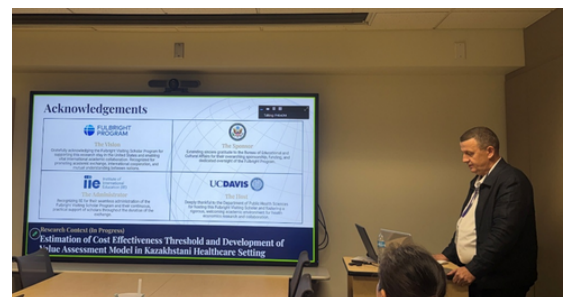
In April, Drs. Anirban Basu and Lou Garrison hosted Dr. Alexandr Kostyuk, MD, PhD, at CHOICE as a Fulbright Outreach Lecturer. Kostyuk, a health policy and health economics specialist with extensive experience at the intersection of academia and government, has played an active role in shaping pharmaceutical pricing, reimbursement frameworks, and national health system reforms in Kazakhstan and the broader Central Asian region, with a focus on health technology assessment (HTA), value-based healthcare, and evidence-informed decision-making. During his time in Seattle, Kostyuk met with CHOICE faculty and students and delivered a lecture, "Health Coverage Decision Making in Kazakhstan: The Role of Health Technology Assessment, Policy Challenges, and Emerging Solutions," offering CHOICE a close look at how HTA is taking shape in a region navigating its own health system reforms.

The visit built on a collaboration between Garrison and Kostyuk that spans several years and continents, from early meetings at ISPOR conferences to Kostyuk hosting Garrison in Astana, Kazakhstan, in April 2024. Two months after his Seattle visit, Kostyuk and Garrison reconnected again at the HTAi Global Annual Conference in Istanbul, co-leading an HTA workshop and joining a panel on cost-effectiveness thresholds and value assessment frameworks alongside Jeffrey Hoch (UC Davis) and Krzysztof Landa (Poland).

Together, the Seattle visit, the Astana trip, and the Istanbul panel reflect the kind of sustained, personal exchange that keeps CHOICE connected to the global HTA community.



LOU GARRISON, ALEX KOSTYUK (KAZAKHSTAN), JEFFREY HOCH (UC DAVIS), AND KRZYSZTOF LANDA (POLAND) AT HTAi IN ISTANBUL



DR. KOSTYUK PRESENTING AT THE PHENOM SEMINAR IN APRIL 2026 IN SEATTLE, WA

AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: **FACULTY** continued

Jennifer Bacci, PharmD, MPH

- Grants Awarded:
 - Principal Investigator. 5-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease for the study, "Pharmacists in HIV prevention: fellowship, fundamentals, and sustainable finances."
 - Principal Investigator: HRSA: HWRC Allied Health funding through the UW Center for Health Workforce Studies for the study, "Community pharmacy closures in the US: Examining Contributing Factors and Workforce Impacts."



Douglas Barthold, PhD

- Elected to University of Washington Faculty Senate
- Appointed Chair of Admissions Committee, CHOICE Graduate Program



Anirban Basu, PhD

- HEOR Excellence - Application Award, International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) (2025).
- Elected to the Washington State Academy of Science (WSAS), 2026.

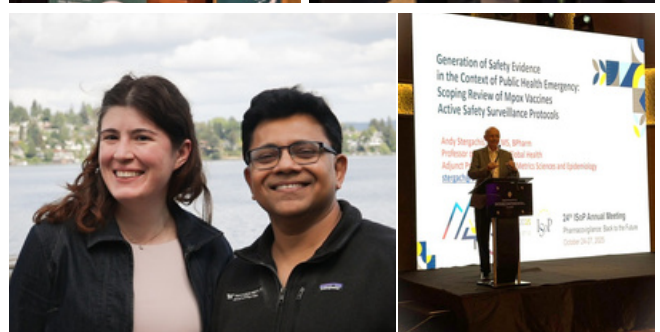
Josh Carlson, MPH, PhD

- Director, Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Pfizer, 2026-2028
- Awarded new 2 year contract with the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review 01/01/26 - 12/31/2027.



Beth Devine, PhD, PharmD, MBA, MSc

- Began one-year term as President of ISPOR (2026-2027)
- New Appointment: Head of Department and Professor of Evidence Synthesis. Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. University of York, UK (2026 -)
- Visiting Professor, Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, UK (2025-2026)
- Earned MSc, Medical Statistics and Health Data Science, Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, UK (2025)
- Appointed Associate editor, Value in Health (2021 - 2029)
- Inaugural speaker at the First Annual Bristol Evidence synthesis, Appraisal and Modelling (BEAM) Centre Symposium, Population Health Sciences, School of Medicine, University of Bristol



Clayton English, PharmD, MS

- PGY2 Psychiatry Program Preceptor of the Year 2025-2026- UW Medicine
- Second Professional Year Excellence in Teaching Award- Doctor of Pharmacy Program
- Appointed Assistant Director of Research in Center for Pharmacy Practice Transformation
- Served first term as President of the AAPP Foundation



CHOICE FACULTY ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: FACULTY continued

Lou Garrison, PhD

- Invited speaker, HTAi Global Annual Conference, Istanbul, Türkiye — pre-conference workshop on institutionalizing HTA and panel on cost-effectiveness thresholds and value assessment frameworks (June 2026)
- Co-instructor, short course on valuing innovative medicines from an investor perspective, ISPOR EU (Glasgow) and ISPOR International (Philadelphia); seventh offering scheduled for ISPOR EU (Vienna), November 2026

Shelly Gray, PharmD, MPH

- Appointed Associate Editor, Journal of the American Geriatrics Society
- 2025-26 Fulbright U.S. Senior Scholar Program. Host Institution, Chinese Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan

Ryan Hansen, PharmD, PhD

- Grants Awarded:
 - Co-Investigator. 5-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease for the study, "Pharmacists in HIV prevention: fellowship, fundamentals, and sustainable finances."
 - Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Bayer. 2026-2028.
 - Graduate Fellowship Program in HEOR/Early Health Technology Assessment, Washington Research Foundation. 2025-2027.

Laura Hart, PharmD, MS

- Third Professional Year Excellence in Teaching Award- Doctor of Pharmacy Program

Noémi Kreif, MA, MSc, PhD

- MQ Foundation Fellowship in Economics and Mental Health Research, The Kennedy Forum — \$100,000, one-year fellowship (awarded June 2026).
- Selected as Outstanding Reviewer, Value in Health (2026)
- Nominated for the UW School of Pharmacy Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award.

Kyu Lee, PhD

- Awarded 5-year K01 career development award from the National Institute of Health (NIH), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- Director of Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Health Economics and Outcomes Research, AbbVie. 2026-2028.

Jing Li, MS, PhD

- Finalist, 2026 National Institute of Health Care Management Policy Research Award
- Grants Awarded:
 - Principal Investigator. "Strengthening Home-Based Integrated Care through China's Family Doctor System: Evaluations and Comparisons with the U.S." China Medical Board #25-613. 1/1/2026-12/31/2028.
 - Co-Investigator. "From Implementation to Impact: A Process Evaluation of King County's Medicaid-Funded Nutrition Support Program". University of Washington Population Health Initiative Tier 3 Pilot Research Grant (PI: Knox). 8/1/2026-2/28/2027.

Andy Stergachis, PhD, MS, BPharm

- Grants Awarded:
 - Living Systematic Review and Meta analyses on effectiveness and immunogenicity outcome of RSVpreF vaccine, ABRYVO. Instituto de Efectividad Clínica y Sanitaria/Pfizer.
 - Background Incidence Rates Follow-on Project. Gates Foundation.

Sean D. Sullivan, BScPharm, MSc, PhD

- Awarded the Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement Award (ISPOR), May 2026
- Grants Awarded:
 - Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Sanofi. 2026-2028
 - Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Pharmaceutical Policy Research, National Pharmaceutical Council. 2026-2028.

David Veenstra, PharmD, PhD

- Director of Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Health Economics and Outcomes Research, Genentech. 2026-2028.





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PHD GRADUATE TORI DAYER WITH DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT HER DEFENSE: SAM ARNOLD, JOSH ROTH, SEAN SULLIVAN, AND RYAN HANSEN. NOT PICTURED: KRISTI MARTIN, WHO ATTENDED VIA ZOOM.

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