



## Director's Welcome

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am writing to bring you some of the highlights of the CHOICE Institute during these extraordinary times. I am grateful for the excellent work that our students, faculty, post-docs, alumni, and staff continue to generate even through the many hardships that we face in our daily lives nowadays.

Recent news on a few vaccine candidates' efficacy gives us a silver lining. We must appreciate the remarkable achievement of having the potential to obtain an effective vaccine within such a short time. With these effective vaccine looming, the option value of engaging in sound public

health measures of masking, physically distancing, and regular hand-washing has never been greater.

Our program thrives with support from our well-wishers and colleagues. We are very grateful to the Devine family for creating a new endowment, the Devine Family Endowed Fellowship for Graduate Students, that aims to recognize and support women in STEM who are studying Health Economics and Outcomes Research within The CHOICE Institute. This endowment is a significant boost to continue with our excellence in graduate education and our commitment to diversity. You can read a beautiful piece on the inspiration of this endowment below.

We are excited about starting a new HEOR MS fellowship program with Glaxo-SmithKline (GSK). This new fellowship would be our sixth industry-sponsored fellowship and highlight our commitment to HEOR training for post-PharmD candidates.

Several accomplishments by the CHOICE family members are listed below. Congratulations to Dean (Prof.) Sean Sullivan for being elected to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the pinnacles of achievement for scientists in our field! Also, congratulations to CHOICE alum Mark Bounthavong for joining the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty. Finally, I would urge all of our alumni to lend some time to respond to the [2020 UWSOP Community Insight Survey for the UWSOP](#). Your voices matter to us!

We wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving and holidays ahead. May 2021 bring us new hope for all of us.

Sincerely,  
Anirban

**Anirban Basu, PhD**  
Professor of Health Economics  
Stergachis Family Endowed Director  
The CHOICE Institute  
University of Washington School of Pharmacy

SUPPORT CHOICE STUDENTS



## Fall Quarter 2020

Highlights from the CHOICE Institute



### **Announcing The Devine Family Endowed Fellowship**

Professor Beth Devine honors her family by paving the way for a new generation of women scientists in STEM with this graduate student fellowship.



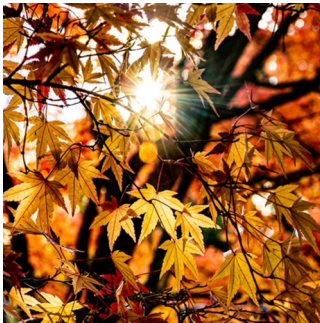
### **Professor & Dean Sean D. Sullivan elected to NAM**

UWSOP Dean & Professor Sean D. Sullivan has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM).



### **PhD student Sabra Zaraa studies drug utilization patterns in Saudi Arabia**

Recounting her experiences studying medication utilization patterns during the Hajj mass gathering



## **Activities and Accomplishments**

We are excited to announce our newest MS Fellowship Sponsor, **GlaxoSmithKline**. The first GSK Fellow will be starting in July 2021, will spend a year at The CHOICE Institute earning a Master's Degree, and then will transition to working for a year embedded in the GSK U.S. Value, Evidence, and Outcomes Group, mentored by Group Head and UW SOP Corporate Advisory Board Member Matthew Rousculp, PhD, MPH, and members of his group, based in the Philadelphia area working in Oncology. We are thrilled to be partnering with GSK on this additional Fellowship opportunity. [Learn more about our MS HEOR Fellowships.](#)

We are thrilled to welcome back **Dr. Elizabeth (Lizzy) Brouwer, PhD '20** to the CHOICE Institute in her new role as a Research Scientist. Lizzy will be working on our ICER project team as a lead modeler. In this role, she will develop cost-effectiveness models and participate in the development of ICER project reports. [Read more.](#)

Associate Professor **Aasthaa Bansal, PhD** was recently selected to join [ISPOR's Health Sciences Policy Council](#). Her term will go

through June 30, 2022. She was one of six mid-career ISPOR members selected to serve in this important role.

Assistant Professor **Jennifer Bacci, PharmD, MPH** received a [COVID-19 rapid response grant](#) from the University of Washington Population Health Initiative to prepare community pharmacies in Washington state to participate in COVID-19 testing and vaccination .

Research Scientist **Lisa Bloudek, PharmD, MS** and Associate Professor **Josh Carlson, PhD** completed Ulcerative Colitis ICER project. [Review the full report on the ICER website.](#)

**Professor Anirban Basu, PhD** was promoted to Research Associate at the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) .

**Dr. Basu** was also recently interviewed by the Washington Business Magazine about his COVID-19 research. [Read the story.](#)

[Learn more](#) about Dr. Basu's collaborative work examining the impact of in-person university instruction during the pandemic. His recent study found that colleges with primarily in-person instruction can lead to thousands of COVID-19 cases per day in US.

Professor Emeritus **Lou Garrison, PhD** served on Planning Committee for ISPOR-IVI Webinar Series on "Value Assessment in the Age of COVID-19: Meeting the Challenges". Dr. Garrison moderated the second webinar in the series on "COVID-19: Are Our Methods Up To The Task" (Aug. 27, 2020). [Recordings available online.](#)

**Dr. Garrison** also organized and led the ISPOR-APAC Short Course on "Performance-Based Risk-Sharing Arrangements for Drugs and Other Medical Products, Oct. 21, 2020.

Professor and Associate Dean **Andy Stergachis, BPharm, PhD** is co-lead of the Vaccine Safety Workstream for the COVAX Maternal Immunization Working Group. Coordinated by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the WHO, COVAX acts as a platform to support the research, development and manufacturing of a wide range of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. The aim of the COVAX

Maternal Immunization Working Group is to enable the development of COVID-19 vaccine candidates suitable for use in pregnant and lactating women.

**Dr. Stergachis** was also recently appointed to the National Academy of Medicine Committee on the Long-Term Medical and Economic Effects of Antimicrobial Resistance and serves as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Antimalarial Pregnancy Exposure Registry project that is based at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and supported by Medicines for Malaria Venture

The **UW Student ISPOR Chapter** hosted a successful webinar event in October on landing an HEOR internship. The event was led by faculty speaker **Dr. Ryan Hansen, PharmD, PhD** and two student panelists, **Enrique Saldarriaga, MS and Shuxian Chen, PhC, MA**. Dr. Hansen provided an overview of industry internships, applications, and resources that students should be aware of. From the student perspective, Enrique and Shuxian shared their experiences as interns during their time as PhD students. The online format allowed our chapter to extend the invitations to external organizations and ISPOR chapters, and we had students from AMCP and AcademyHealth at UW as well as other ISPOR chapters in attendance. The next chapter event will be a mentor opportunity for newer PhD students to chat with more senior PhD students as they share details of their research focuses, approaches for developing research questions, and experiences/advice about the dissertation process. If you are interested in partnering with our ISPOR student chapter for any potential activities, please contact chapter President, Jacinda Tran, at [jntran@uw.edu](mailto:jntran@uw.edu)

CHOICE alum **Mark Bounthavong, PharmD, MPH, PhD '18** joined the faculty at UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences in September 2020 as an Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy. While at UCSD, Mark continues to work at the VA Central Office Pharmacy Benefits Management as a data program manager for the Academic Detailing Service and as a health economist for the VA Health Economics Resource Center (HERC).

CHOICE alum **Heidi S. Wirtz, PharmD, PhD '12** recently joined the Seagen Global Health Economics and Outcomes Research team after nearly seven years at Amgen working in both the

Center for Observational Research and Global Health Economics. Of this new opportunity, Heidi says she is excited for this local Seattle opportunity and reconnecting with UW colleagues!

**Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations Open:** Given annually by the Pharmacy Alumni Association, the Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) recognizes alumni who demonstrate excellence in the profession, are connected to the School, and have a positive impact on the pharmacy profession and research community. Nominations are open through **Monday, January 4, 2021**. [More details about criteria and how to nominate a peer.](#)

#### **Your Response Requested: Community Insight Survey**

The 2020 UWSOP Community Insight Survey is open and we want to hear from all alumni! This survey is intended to help the UW School of Pharmacy understand your feelings about the School and what issue areas, topics and types of stories you value most, so that we can tailor our communications to meet your interests and needs. Take the survey today for a chance to win a free year of PAA Membership.

TAKE THE SURVEY



## Research and Publications

Fourth-year PhD student, **Samantha Clark, MS**, had a first-author manuscript accepted for publication in Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice. [Read the study.](#)

- **Clark S, Marcum Z, Radich J, Bansal A.** Predictors of tyrosine kinase inhibitor adherence trajectories in patients with newly diagnosed chronic myeloid leukemia. Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice. In press.

Third-year PhD student, **Woojung Lee, PharmD**, was a co-author on a study, dubbed FUTUREPAIN, aimed to build a questionnaire measuring the probability of an individual developing chronic pain seven to 10 years in the future. [Read more.](#)

First-year PhD student **Rachel Wittenauer, MPH**, Professor **Andy Stergachis, BPharm, PhD** and Associate Professor **Brian**



**Werth, PharmD** published two articles from their work with the USAID Medicines, Technologies and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program earlier this year, where they worked with the Tanzania Ministry of Health to strengthen antimicrobial stewardship and surveillance. [Read more.](#)

Research Assistant Professor **Douglas Barthold, PhD** and CHOICE Institute colleagues published a paper in the Journal of General Internal Medicine that examined the relationship between difficulty managing medications and subsequent diagnoses of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). The results showed that medication difficulty is predictive of ADRD diagnoses up to four years into the future. These results have implications for improving diagnostic accuracy and timing for patients, with the potential for medication management difficulties to prompt further cognitive screening, potentially aiding in earlier recognition of ADRD. [Read the study.](#)

- **Barthold D, Marcum ZA, Chen S, White L, Ailabouni N, Basu A, Coe NB, Gray SL.** "Difficulty with taking medications is associated with future diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias," Journal of General Internal Medicine, published online October 9, 2020

Affiliate Assistant Professor **Kai Yeung, PhD** recently coauthored a New England Journal of Medicine paper with fellow CHOICE faculty **Douglas Barthold, PhD**, and **Anirban Basu, PhD**, and Stacie B. Dusetzina, PhD, from Vanderbilt University. The study examines the effects of state laws that cap patient payments for high-cost specialty drugs, for example for hepatitis C, multiple sclerosis, or rheumatoid arthritis. [Learn more.](#)

**Basu A, Gujral K.** [Evidence generation, decision-making, and consequent growth in health disparities.](#) Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences 2020; 117 (25) 14042-14051.

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**Lee W, Gray SL, Zaslavsky O, Barthold D, Marcum ZA**. [Association between having a family member with dementia and perceptions of dementia preventability](#). Aging Ment Health 2020 [in press]

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**CHOICE BLOG: INCREMENTAL THOUGHTS**



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