We are thrilled to announce the Plein Center for Geriatric Pharmacy Research, Education & Outreach. The Center will promote the discovery and optimal use of medications in older adults. We are very excited about developing new collaborations within the School and University-wide with a focus on optimizing medication use and supporting healthy aging in the communities we serve.

Over the summer we have been busy building the foundation for the Center. Assistant Director for Education, Leigh Ann Mike, will coordinate the Center’s training and educational missions, including the Plein Certificate in Geriatric Pharmacy. Assistant Director for Research, Zachary Marcum, will work with Plein Center faculty to build out an interdisciplinary research mission for the Center. We have formed an interdisciplinary Steering Committee, chaired by Andy Stergachis, to provide strategic direction to the Center and advise the Center’s leadership. Read more.

Over the next 6 months we will be engaging faculty, students and our community partners for ideas about how best to accomplish our vision of being a global leader in geriatric pharmacy. Please join us for the Inaugural Research Symposium for the Plein Center: Celebrating Today and Planning for Tomorrow on Wednesday, February 15 as we kick off a new tradition in Geriatric Pharmacy Research. Until then, I wish you a happy and peaceful holiday season and new year.

--Shelly Gray, Professor & Plein Center Director
Plein Geriatric Pharmacy Center addresses growing need

"With the addition of the School of Pharmacy’s Plein Center for Geriatric Pharmacy Research, Education and Outreach, the University of Washington continues to lead the way in geriatric health care," said Sean D. Sullivan, Professor and Dean of UW School of Pharmacy. The Plein Center will expand the School of Pharmacy’s role as a leader in the field of geriatric pharmacy to encompass the breadth of disciplines within the School of Pharmacy and beyond. The Pleins have also established the Plein Endowed Faculty Fellowship for the Director of the Center (see below). Read more.


> The Elder Friendly Future Conference took place September 15-16, 2016, in Lynnwood, Washington and featured UWSOP faculty and students from the Department of Pharmacy. Jenny Bacci, Josh Akers, Leigh Ann Mike, Jennifer Kapur, and Lingtak-Neander Chan served as speakers and/or moderators. PharmD students Emily Tran, Derry McDonald, Melissa Yuen presented a poster. Faculty emerita Joy Plein served as a key member of the planning committee for the two-day conference.

Preceptor Profile

We will learn a little about our fantastic Preceptors and then a fun fact or two, as well as how they like their coffee—as a little nod to our Seattle location.

Jennifer Bacci, PharmD, MPH, BCACP, Assistant Professor and Kelley-Ross Fellow, Department of Pharmacy

Jennifer Bacci began in July 2015, the same year she completed her Master of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. She graduated cum laude with her PharmD degree from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Pharmacy. "I became involved in geriatric pharmacy because of my focus in community practice," said Jenny. "We see many geriatric patients in the community setting. Part of my work in advancing the adoption of innovative patient care models in the community is developing patient care programs and models that meet the individualized needs of geriatric patients." In her role as Kelley-Ross Pharmacy Fellow, she has led the implementation of an innovative partnership between Kelley-Ross, Bellwether Housing, and Aging and Disability Services to bring in-home medication coaching to seniors. As with many Seattle transplants, Jenny has discovered a love for hiking. When she’s not teaching students, helping patients, developing life-changing programs, researching, writing and publishing, you can find her on one of the trails around the Puget Sound. Her coffee preference is for a latte QAM (a.k.a., every morning).
Our faculty have been hard at work on several key research projects. We have highlighted a few publications below.

**Research having an international impact**, "Do benzodiazepines increase dementia risk?" Shelly Gray was invited to present her research at the XII Portuguese Congress of Psychiatry 2016 in Vilomoura, Portugal in November.

**How do primary care providers prescribe newly approved cardiovascular medications?**

The *BMC Health Services Research* published Zach Marcum's "New chronic disease medication prescribing by nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and primary care physicians: a cohort study" which sought to examine the prescribing of new cardiovascular and diabetes medications by Nurse Practitioners (NP) and Physician Assistants (PA) relative to that of Primary Care Physicians (PCP). Little is known about prescribing of chronic disease medications by NPs and PAs, despite their increasingly important role as primary care providers. This study found that PCPs were more likely to prescribe each of the newly approved medications. "Given that NPs and PAs are playing an increasingly important role in providing primary care, it is important to better understand differences in the rate and speed of adoption of new drugs," said Zach. "As pharmacists begin to take on more of a prescribing role, future studies including pharmacist prescribing will be needed."

**Better understanding the normal function of a key player in Alzheimer's disease**

Protein tau is infamous for forming harmful "tangles" in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease and several other forms of dementia, but in healthy cells it plays a crucial role in stabilizing the network of microtubules – filaments of tubulin proteins within each of our cells that serve as "railways" for the transport of important cargoes. It is unclear how tau interacts with tubulin so as to stabilize microtubules. Now, a team of researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, and the University of Washington have shed new light on this question, as described in their article "A functional role for intrinsic disorder in the tau-tubulin complex," published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. "The more we understand about tau's normal function, the better the odds that we can eventually prevent or reverse its harmful effects in disorders like Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease, and other tauopathies," says UW Medicinal Chemistry Assistant Professor Abhi Nath, a co-author of this study.
The Plein Certificate in Geriatric Pharmacy trains pharmacists in geriatrics to meet the needs of older adults in all practice settings. We recently wrapped up this year's application cycle with a large applicant pool of PharmD students interested in developing an expertise in geriatrics! Nineteen students will be offered admission to the Program this cycle.

Plein Scholar Marian Dobles (PY4) as well as Sandy Chung (PY4), Grace Lee (PY3), Derry McDonald (PY2), Emily Tran (PY3) presented posters at the American Society for Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) meeting in Dallas, Texas November 4-6, 2016. Poster topics included a falls prevention program, transitions of care, and student engagement in ASCP at the UW School of Pharmacy. ASCP is the only international professional society devoted to optimal medication management and improved health outcomes for all older persons.

Inaugural Research Symposium for the Plein Center: Celebrating Today and Planning for Tomorrow
February 15, 2017, 1-4 PM @ Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St, Seattle, WA 98105
An afternoon research symposium that will launch the new Plein Center, highlighting current research across the School of Pharmacy and forecasting future research needs and opportunities to improve the health and well-being of older adults in the community.
UWSOP, Era Living Partner for Patient-Centered Care

"As integrated members of the health care team, UW faculty practitioners and our registered nurses, social workers, and care staff are able to share valuable information centered around enhancing the health and well-being of our residents," said Jacob Almo, Vice President of operations at Era Living. UW School of Pharmacy offers a novel approach to student training and patient care in Era Living residential communities. The program is a mutually beneficial one: in addition to their regular pharmacy services, residents receive supplemental medication expertise for which UW pharmacy faculty and students are well-known, and student pharmacists have opportunities to enrich their training through supervised patient consultations and more. Read more.

The UW School of Pharmacy Geriatric Pharmacy Program is made stronger through support of our faculty, alumni and friends.

As you consider your year-end investment opportunities, here are three ways you can support the leading-edge student experience and the life-changing research of our preeminent faculty:

- **Geriatric Pharmacy Research Program Fund**
  The Geriatric Pharmacy Program supports the Plein Center and other UWSOP geriatrics training, research, and service with a focus on the optimal use of pharmacotherapy in older adults to improve disease management and appropriate use of medication in older adults.

- **Plein Endowment for Geriatric Pharmacy Research**
  To support students who are engaged in geriatric pharmacy research at the School of Pharmacy. Research areas may include but are not limited to, translational research projects that move evidence-based, aging research along the continuum from laboratory findings to treatment of disease and maintenance of health and well-being of community-living older adults.

- **Shirley and Herb Bridge Endowed Professorship for Women in Pharmacy**
  This fund supports faculty, teaching and research in geriatrics and senior care,
emphasizing women in pharmacy.