

W THE CHOICE INSTITUTE

School of Pharmacy

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Director's Welcome

Dear colleagues and friends,

As we wrap up a wonderful and productive year, despite ongoing challenges residual from the pandemic, I am grateful to all in CHOICE for making it a collegial and inclusive environment. The impact of our work keeps magnifying, as the historic Inflation Reduction Act allowed CMS to start negotiating prices for selected drugs, and the White House guideline on the evaluation of regulations included an allowance for doing cost-effectiveness analysis in specific instances. In this context, we published a Health Affairs Forefront article highlighting the value of understanding health impacts through the lens of both quality of life and longevity, even though QALYs per se are prohibited from use by current laws in the US. In other work, our senior staff scientists led and published an important article on the value of routine genomic screening for young adults.

We congratulate our students on various achievements. Recently, PhD student Sara Khor was honored with the School of Pharmacy Graduate Student Leadership Award. In March, PhD student Karris Jeon won the best podium

presentation award at the Western Pharmacoeconomics Conference. In the same meeting, PhD students Emily Callen and Ben Nwogu won best poster presentation awards.

We welcome our new cohort of MS fellows who will be joining this July. We also welcome our new Online Certificates Program Manager, Leana De La Torre. Finally, congrats to our graduating PhD students: Yilin Chen, Samantha Clark, and Sabra Zaraa, and graduating MS students: Zach Baldwin, Spencer Cheng, Arvind Katta, Hyunwoo Kim, Jae Kim, and Stella Ko.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,
Anirban

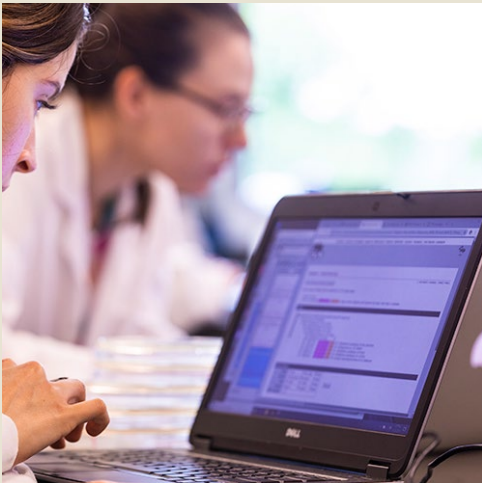
Anirban Basu, PhD
Professor & Stergachis Family Endowed Director
The CHOICE Institute

GIVE TO THE CHOICE INSTITUTE



SPRING QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

CHOICE Activities & Accomplishments



[CHOICE Team Co-Authors Study Supporting Routine Genomic Testing](#)

CHOICE researchers and their co-



[Welcoming our 2023-2025 Cohort of MS HEOR Fellows](#)

We are pleased to announce the newest cohort of CHOICE MS HEOR



[CHOICE faculty co-author joint statement on the use of QALY's](#)

Researchers at The CHOICE Institute and University of Southern California

authors from Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Geisinger Health published a simulation modeling study in *Annals of Internal Medicine* that urges U.S. health policymakers to consider routine genomic testing of all adults aged 40 and younger for three genetic conditions posing high risk of devastating illness.

Fellows who will start their programs this July. These training programs each combine the resources of a leading academic center for pharmaceutical economics and policy with the dynamic, real-world training of major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies recognized for their commitment to innovation.

Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics published a statement in *Health Affairs* on the use of the quality-adjusted life-year (QALY), affirming that, “While the QALY remains controversial, placing value on both life extension and quality of life should not be.”



[Spring Quarter at The CHOICE Institute](#)

We recently welcomed our newest staff member to the team: **Leana de la Torre**, CHOICE Online Certificates Program Manager. Leana has been a student adviser at UW International Student Services for the past eighteen years, helping international students navigate complex federal immigration regulations while meeting their academic and career goals. We are fortunate to have her as part of the CHOICE Institute. Read more about our certificate program [here](#).

Congratulations to **Sabra Zaraa**, who successfully defended her dissertation on May 3, titled, “Health and economic burden of substandard and falsified medicines”. Sabra's committee consists of Dr. Andy Stergachis, PhD, BPharm (Chair), Dr. Josh Carlson, MPH, PhD, Dr. Elisabeth Vodicka, MHA, PhD, and Ruth Etzioni, PhD (Biostatistics, Fred Hutch) serving as Graduate School Representative (GSR). Sabra will be graduating this month and is on the job market. [Read her job market profile](#).

Congratulations to PhD student **Jacinda Tran**, who successfully passed her dissertation proposal defense (general exam) in April and advanced to candidacy. Jacinda's dissertation is titled, “Understanding HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis use in the United States and the potential impact of community pharmacists”. Jacinda's supervisory committee consists of Dr. Ryan Hansen, PharmD, PhD (Chair), Dr. Marita Zimmermann, MPH, PhD, Dr. Noah Simon, PhD (Biostatistics) and Dr. Bianca Frogner, PhD (Family Medicine) serving as GSR.

We also congratulate PhD student **Rachel Wittenauer** for successfully passing her dissertation proposal defense (general exam) in May. Rachel's dissertation is titled, "Equitable access and reimbursement for pharmacy-based services: A case study of adult vaccinations". Rachel's supervisory committee consists of Dr. Andy Stergachis, PhD, BPharm (Chair), Dr. Jennifer Bacci, PharmD, MPH, BCACP, Dr. Parth Shah, PharmD, PhD, and Stephen Mooney, MS, PhD (Epidemiology) serving as GSR.

We look forward to celebrating with PhD Candidate **Yilin Chen** who will be defending her dissertation this Wednesday, June 7! Yilin's dissertation is titled, "Evaluating Heterogeneity in Treatment Effects and Economic Value of Tumor-Agnostic Drugs." Yilin's supervisory committee includes Dr. Josh Carlson, MPH, PhD (Chair), Dr. Anirban Basu, PhD, Dr. Lurdes Inoue, MS, PhD (Biostatistics), and Dr. Anjali Wagner, MPH, PhD (Global Health) as GSR. After graduating, Yilin will be staying in the Seattle area and joining Curta as a Senior Research Associate. Congratulations, Yilin!

Congratulations to 1st year PhD student, **Karris Jeon**, for receiving an Outstanding Podium Presentation Award at WPEC for her work titled, "Cost-effectiveness of onasemnogene abeparvovec in newborns with pre-symptomatic spinal muscular atrophy" which was also presented as a poster at ISPOR Boston. [See the poster.](#)

Additionally, we congratulate PhD students **Ben Nwogu** (2nd year) and **Emily Callen** (1st year) for receiving Outstanding Poster Presentation awards at WPEC. Ben's work, titled, "[Cost-Effectiveness of Adding Darolutamide to Docetaxel and Androgen Deprivation Therapy in the Treatment of Metastatic Hormone-Sensitive Prostate Cancer](#)" was also presented during ISPOR Boston and highlighted in the Oncology poster tour. Emily's work, titled, "[Immunotherapy for Advanced and Recurrent dMMR Endometrial Cancer: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis](#)" was also presented as a poster at ISPOR Boston. Both Ben and Emily's posters were recognized as being in the top 5%!

3rd year PhD student **Rachel Wittenauer** attended a weeklong course in April at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on "Modern Techniques for Modelling Infectious Disease Dynamics." She recently presented work from her ongoing RA position during the Institute for Disease Modeling Symposium ("Health and economic outcomes of community HIV PrEP scale-up in western Kenya: a modeling study") and work from her past internship at PATH during ISPOR ("Cost of childhood RSV management and cost-effectiveness of RSV interventions: a systematic review from a low- and middle-income country perspective"), which was recently published in a special RSV article collection in BMC medicine, guest edited by Mark Jit. [Read more.](#)

Professor Emeritus **Lou Garrison** spoke recently at health technology assessment (HTA) meetings held in Cairo and New Delhi with similar themes in both regions. Lou was a keynote speaker in the 1st Annual Arab Health Economics Meeting: Evolution of Health Economics in Arab Countries. Lou then travelled to India, first, visiting Prof. Souvik Banerjee, a former CHOICE post-doctoral fellow, who teaches at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay. He spoke in Souvik's health economics class, and then the two of them went on to New Delhi to participate in the International Symposium of Health Technology Assessment: ISHTA 2023: "Affordability, Availability and Accessibility of Healthcare Technologies through Evidence generated by HTA for Universal Health Coverage." [Read more.](#)

In March, Professor **Andy Stergachis** co-led an invitational workshop at the University of Oxford to discuss research on the relationship between substandard and falsified antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistance. [Read more.](#)

ISPOR Student Chapter Update

Our UW ISPOR student chapter was excited to co-host a collaborative journal club event in March with the University of Maryland ISPOR student chapter. Current CHOICE PhD student Sara Khor presented on her recent

publication “How Much Does the US Public Value Equity in Health? A Systematic Review” (co-authors: **Zizi Elsis** and **Josh Carlson**), and student leaders from the two student chapters facilitated discussion in small breakout groups. This event was a fun and interactive way to learn more about this topic and network with students from another school! Our chapter had further opportunity to network and learn about research in our field - we had eight students and various faculty attend the Western Pharmacoeconomics Conference (WPEC) in March, hosted at the University of Southern California. We look forward to hosting WPEC at University of Washington in 2025!

CHOICE BLOG: INCREMENTAL THOUGHTS



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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