



From the Director

Dear Colleagues,

This spring reminded us, again, of what makes CHOICE special: the people, and the way our work moves so naturally from rigorous methods to real-world impact. After a two-year pause, our Annual Retreat finally reconvened, and there was something quietly moving about being together again, reconnecting across faculty, fellows, students, and staff.

That same pride carried to ISPOR in Philadelphia, where our faculty, fellows, and students presented 24 posters and podiums and helped shape some of the meeting's most prominent sessions. I was especially proud to see Professor Sean Sullivan honored with the Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement Award, ISPOR's highest recognition, and to watch our PhD alumnus Boshen Jiao receive the Bernie O'Brien New Investigator Award, a milestone that means a great deal to me personally.

Closer to home, we celebrated two doctoral defenses by Ben Nwogu and Ronald Dickerson, watched our graduating MS HEOR fellows complete a remarkable first year, and shared in Ron Dickerson and Karris Jeon's tie for this year's Garrison Prize. We also recognized the achievements of our certificate students, who successfully completed continuing education programs and expanded the reach of our training mission. Whether through drug-level analyses of IRA price negotiation savings or new methods advancing value assessment, our scholarship continues to reach the decisions that matter.

I could not be prouder to be part of this community.

Anirban Basu, PhD

*Stergachis Family Endowed Director, The CHOICE Institute
Professor, University of Washington School of Pharmacy*

SPRING QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Take a moment to read the latest from The CHOICE Institute!



Professor Sullivan receives ISPOR lifetime achievement award

Professor Sean D. Sullivan has received the Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement Award from ISPOR, the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research. The award recognizes a career of sustained contribution to the science and practice of improving healthcare quality, value and decision-making.



Dr. Kyu Lee Awarded NIH/NIAID K01 Career Development Award

Assistant Professor Kyu Lee 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.



Certificate Programs: New Names, Same Excellence – Apply for Fall 2026

Applications are now open for our two online certificate programs. Both programs are flexible, online, and asynchronous — designed for working professionals. Explore updated websites with course details, faculty, syllabi, and FAQs, and register for an upcoming info session!



GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

Congratulations, Class of 2026!



Congratulations to **Ben Nwogu, BPharm, MPH**, on successfully defending his PhD dissertation on May 27, "Therapeutic Innovations in Advanced Prostate Cancer: A Real-World Comparative Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation." Ben's research addressed three critical evidence gaps in metastatic prostate cancer treatment. Thank you to his doctoral supervisory committee: Josh Carlson, PhD (Chair), Ruth Etzioni, PhD, Hiba Khan, MD, MPH, Noémi Kreif, PhD, and Susan Graham, MD, PhD (GSR).

Another big congratulations to **Ronald Dickerson, MA, MPH**, on successfully defending his PhD dissertation on May 28, "Firearm Injuries and Illicit Drug Markets: An Econometric Analysis of Costs, Violence, and Spatial Dependence." Ronald's research applies rigorous econometric methods to examine the economic costs and spatial dynamics of firearm injuries and their relationship to illicit drug markets — work with meaningful implications for public health policy and injury prevention. Thank you to his doctoral supervisory committee: Anirban Basu, PhD (Chair), Jing Li, PhD, Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, MD, MPH, PhD, and Samuel Arnold, PhD (GSR).



Last but not least, we wish congratulations to our graduating MS fellows from the 2025-2027 cohort. We enjoyed the opportunity to hear their thesis presentations in a special seminar on May 27 and get a glimpse at what they've accomplished in year one of the fellowship program. We wish them well as they head off to their respective sponsor companies for year two of the fellowship!



Janice Jang, AbbVie Fellow (based in Chicago, IL for Year 2)

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

Chair: Kyu Lee



Jonathan Luong, Genentech Fellow (based in San Francisco, CA for Year 2)

Thesis title: Healthcare resource utilization, costs, and treatment patterns in patients with primary membranous nephropathy

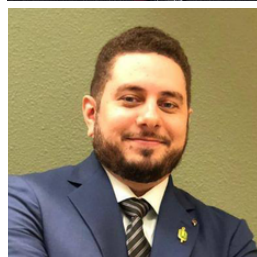
Chair: Dave Veenstra



Jacob Vang, Pfizer Fellow (based in Bothell, WA for Year 2)

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

Chair: Josh Carlson



Andrew Cotterill, AbbVie Fellow (based in Irvine, CA for Year 2)

Thesis title: Healthcare Resource Utilization and Treatment Patterns among Adults With Essential Tremor

Chair: Noémi Kreif

2026-28 HEOR INDUSTRY FELLOWS

We are delighted to welcome our incoming cohort of MS HEOR fellows, who will begin the program in July.



Brianne Burns

*Thomas Jefferson University
UW-Genentech Fellow
Mentor: Dave Veenstra*



Kendall Derber

*University of Utah
UW-Sanofi Fellow
Mentor: Sean Sullivan*



Sharon Kim

*University of California-Irvine
UW-AbbVie Fellow
Mentor: Kyu Lee*



Quinn Lifschitz

*University of Utah
UW-Bayer Fellow
Mentor: Ryan Hansen*



Duc Pham

*University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
UW-Bayer Fellow
Mentor: Ryan Hansen*



Julia Song

*University of Utah
UW-Pfizer Fellow
Mentor: Josh Carlson*

DICKERSON AND JEON RECEIVE THE 2026 GARRISON PRIZE IN HEALTH POLICY AND ECONOMICS

Congratulations to PhD Candidates **Ron Dickerson, MA, MPH** and **Karris Jeon, MSc**, who tied for the 2026 Garrison Prize in Health Policy and Economics! Following evaluation by a CHOICE faculty committee led by Dr. Douglas Barthold, both were recognized for their outstanding work — Dickerson for "County-Level 30-Day Firearm Injury Treatment Costs in the United States: Implications for Trauma-System Planning and Payment Geography" [Dickerson, Jing Li, Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, Anirban Basu] and Jeon for "Spending Impact of the First Ten Drugs Selected for Medicare Drug Price Negotiation in the US" [Jeon, Ryan Hansen, Nico Gabriel, Kristi Martin, Sean Sullivan]. Professor Emeritus Lou Garrison attended the CHOICE Retreat and was honored to present the award, which he and his wife Fran endowed in memory of his parents, Louis P. Garrison, Sr., and Marilyn J. Garrison, who highly valued education.



RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

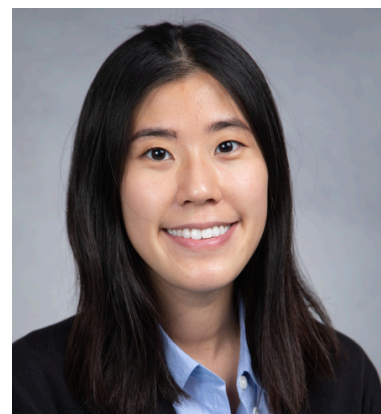
The latest news from The CHOICE Institute faculty, students, fellows, and alumni.

Professor & Stergachis Family Endowed Director, **Dr. Anirban Basu, PhD**, served as an external advisor to the Ministry of Health in India and the Kalam Institute of Technology to help launch the HEOR Guidelines for India 2026, a new standard for value-based healthcare in India. The national framework was unveiled at ISPOR 2026 by Dr. Kavita Kachroo and include the following key components: 1) Precision Medicine & Pharmacogenomics, 2) Medical Device HTA, 3) Real-World Evidence & Data Governance, 4) Equity, Pricing & Value, 5) Workforce & Research Agenda, 6) AI & Digital Health. [Read more.](#)



Congratulations to CHOICE faculty member and Endowed Associate Professor of Innovative Pharmacy Practice, **Dr. Jennifer Bacci, PharmD, MPH**, who has been named co-facilitator of the 2026–2027 NACDS Foundation Faculty Scholars program. The 18-month, community-focused research curriculum supports emerging pharmacy faculty in building the research skills and networks needed to thrive in academic careers. Dr. Bacci's selection as co-facilitator is a recognition of her expertise and commitment to advancing pharmacy education and research — and reflects the University of Washington School of Pharmacy's standing as a leader in shaping the future of the profession. [Learn about the Center for Pharmacy Practice Transformation.](#)

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, guided by the support of her thesis committee: **Drs. Kyu Lee, PhD**, and **Clayton English, PharmD, MS**. The poster and recorded presentation are [available online](#). We're proud of this well-deserved recognition, Olivia!



Dr. Jing Li, PhD, Associate Professor of Health Economics and Associate Director of the CHOICE Institute, has been named a finalist for the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation's Policy Research Award. The finalist paper, "Nothing for something: Marketing cancer drugs to physicians increases prescribing without improving mortality," published in the Journal of Public Economics in February 2025, uses Medicare data to examine how pharmaceutical marketing affects physician prescribing behavior, health care spending, and patient outcomes. [Read more.](#)



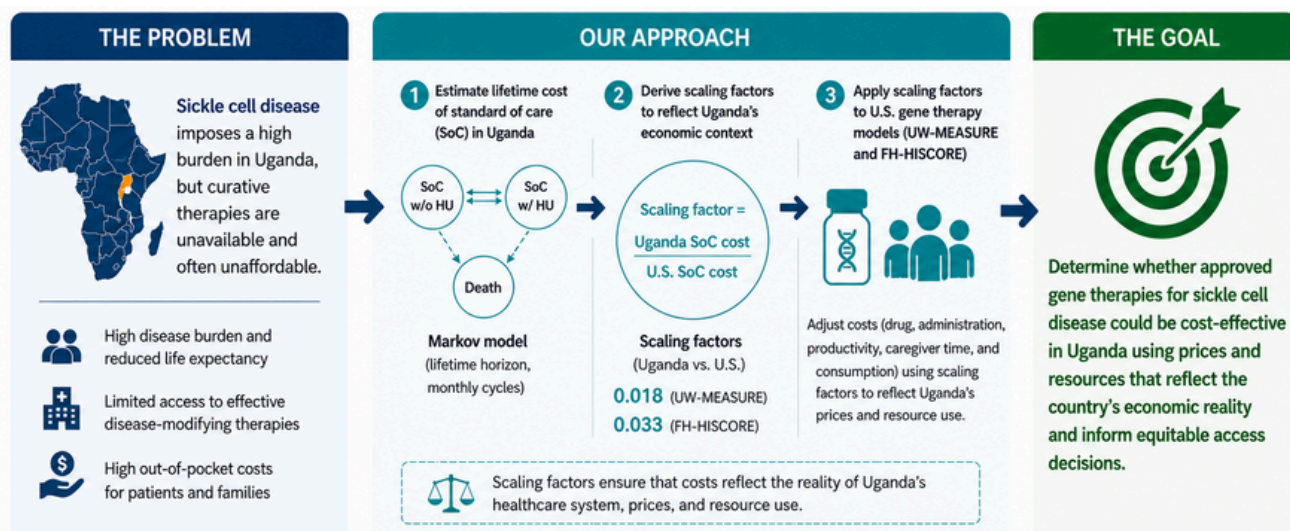
A new study published in Value in Health offers the first drug-level analysis of projected Medicare savings from the Inflation Reduction Act's drug price negotiation program to incorporate drug-specific utilization and price trajectories — and projects lower savings than prior estimates. Led by CHOICE PhD candidate **Karris Jeon**, the study represents the first aim of her dissertation, projecting savings at the individual drug level for the ten Medicare Part D drugs selected for the inaugural round of negotiation, with prices taking effect in 2026. This drug-level approach reveals which drugs drive greater savings and why. [Read more.](#)

CHOICE Fellows **Kevin Li, PharmD, MS**, and **Jonathan Luong, PharmD, MS**, collaborated with CHOICE Emeritus Professor **Dr. Beth Devine, PhD, PharmD, MSc, MBA** to publish a systematic literature review and network meta-analysis comparing biologic treatments for adolescents with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis in Annals of Pharmacotherapy. Li, a UW-Sanofi fellow, identified a gap in the literature and launched the study, and Luong, a UW-Genentech fellow, joined the team and helped bring the manuscript to publication — demonstrating how the CHOICE fellowship experience equips fellows to make meaningful contributions to the evidence base in their therapeutic areas. Clinical expertise was contributed by pediatric dermatologist, Dr. Emily Duffy, of Seattle Children's Hospital. "It was a true pleasure collaborating on this important project with our world-class PharmD and graduate students, Kevin and Jonathan," Devine said. [Read more.](#)



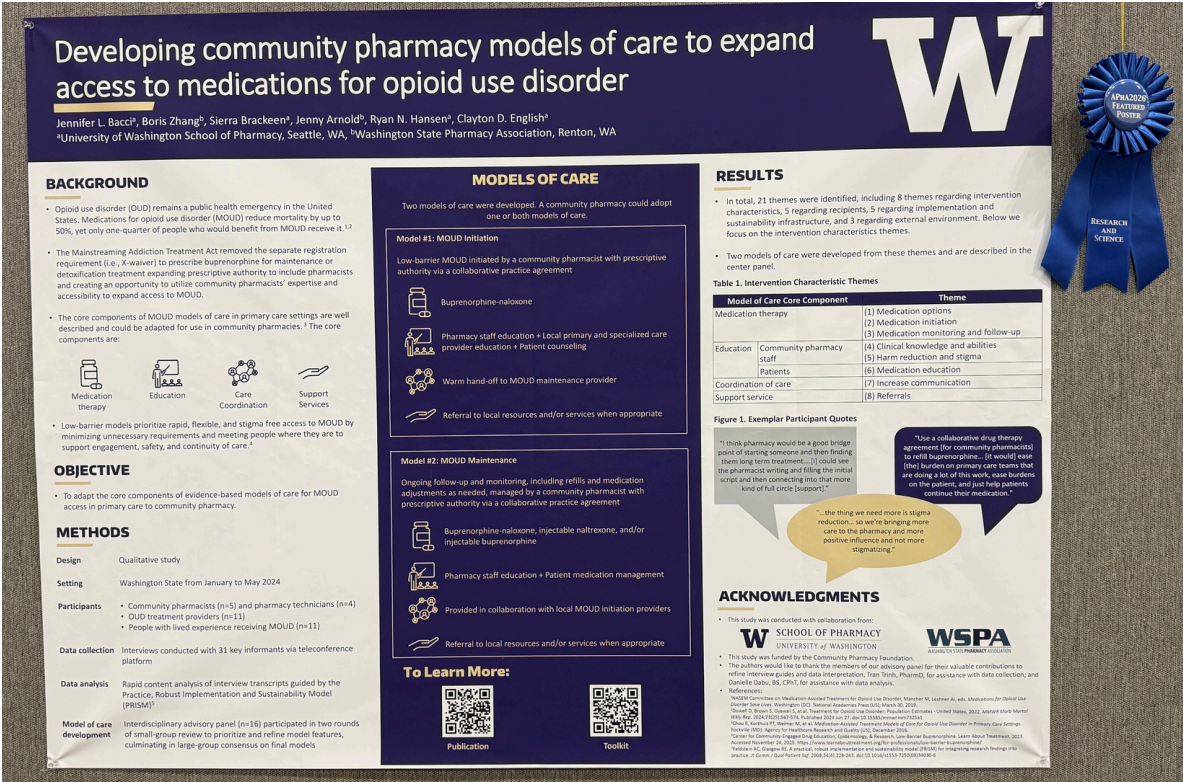
Congratulations to **Lijia Zheng, MPH**, a first-year PhD student in the CHOICE Institute for being selected as a recipient of the ISPOR Travel Grant for ISPOR 2026. At the conference, Lijia presented her poster, "Cost-Effectiveness of Amivantamab Plus Lazertinib Versus Osimertinib and Osimertinib Plus Chemotherapy as First-Line Treatment for EGFR-Mutated Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Three-Way Partitioned Survival Model," co-authored with Dr. Noemi Kreif, MSc, PhD. [Read the abstract.](#)

Research by CHOICE alumnus **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 work, 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. By developing a framework to adapt U.S.-based cost-effectiveness models to a local economic context, the team found that when broader societal impacts are considered, these therapies may be closer to cost-effective than previously assumed. The study offers a practical model for evaluating high-cost therapies in resource-limited settings more broadly. [Read the full Science Spotlight.](#)



Framework for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of gene therapy for sickle cell disease in Uganda by adapting high-income country evidence using locally derived cost scaling factors.

Image provided by F. Montano-Campos.



Drs. Jennifer Bacci, Clayton English, and Ryan Hansen received the 2026 American Pharmacists Association 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!



Dr. Basu & Dr. Lakdawalla in Spring 2025

CHOICE Professor and Stergachis Family Endowed Director **Dr. Anirban Basu**, along with co-author Darius Lakdawalla, has published new work in Value in Health offering a practical solution to a long-standing problem in health economics. QALYs — the standard measure used in cost-effectiveness analysis — treat all health gains as equal regardless of severity, ignore risk preferences, and can undervalue treatments for people with disabilities, a concern significant enough to contribute to QALY restrictions in the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act. The GRACE framework was developed to address these limitations, but its adoption has been hampered by a data problem: its calculation traditionally required Visual Analog Scale scores that most analysts don't have. The new paper provides a rigorous mapping from the widely available EQ-5D to GRACE, along with corrections to willingness-to-pay thresholds where needed — making the framework accessible to a much broader range of analysts. Critically, the authors show that the previous workaround of plugging EQ-5D weights directly into GRACE substantially understated the value of treating severe illness, the exact population where accuracy matters most. For U.S. drug pricing, the approach offers a nondiscriminatory, rigorous alternative for computing maximum fair prices under the IRA. The paper is available open access in Value in Health. [Read the full paper.](#)

Professor **Andy Stergachis, PhD**, attended the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) Africa Chapter Conference in Windhoek, Namibia (May 18, 2026), where he delivered a podium presentation on background incidence rates in Africa and their importance for pharmacovigilance, and presented a poster on active safety surveillance of vaccines and medicines in Africa and other low- and middle-income countries. He also visited the University of Namibia's School of Pharmacy, a program he helped establish in 2011 as the country's first pharmacy degree program. Additionally, he served as faculty for an Africa CDC–CEPI–SPEAC workshop on adverse events of special interest for vaccine safety, drawing over 50 participants from across the continent.



Dr. Stergachis & participants in the Africa CDC–CEPI–SPEAC workshop in May 2026.

As AI and large language models become increasingly used to extract clinical data from electronic health records at scale, a critical question emerges: how do we know we can trust what they produce? CHOICE Affiliate Faculty & PhD Alumna, **Dr. Blythe Adamson, MPH, PhD ('18)**, is part of the team behind a new answer. Published in JCO Cancer Clinical Informatics, the VALID (Validation of Accuracy for LLM/ML-Extracted Information and Data) Framework is the first comprehensive approach to evaluating the quality and accuracy of LLM-extracted real-world oncology data. Built on three pillars — benchmarking LLM performance against expert human abstraction, automated checks for internal inconsistencies, and replication against established clinical findings — the framework gives researchers practical tools to ensure that the efficiency gains of AI don't come at the cost of data quality or patient representation. At a moment when responsible AI adoption in health research has never been more consequential, this work offers an important foundation for trustworthy, equitable evidence generation in cancer care. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Blythe Adamson



Congratulations to **Dr. Julia Slejko, PhD (CHOICE Postdoc Alum, 2014)** who was recently appointed to the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Slejko speaking at WPEC 2025.

Professor Emeritus **Lou Garrison**, along with co-instructors Marlene Gylmark (BeOne Medicines/University of Copenhagen) and Mark Nuijten (A2M Netherlands/Ben Gurion University), led an ISPOR pre-meeting short course on "Valuation of Innovative Medicines," with a focus on investment perspectives and orphan diseases. The course, now in its sixth iteration since ISPOR Copenhagen in 2023, will be offered again at the European ISPOR meeting in Vienna this November. Dr. Garrison also organized and moderated an ISPOR Workshop on "Including Equity in Health Technology Assessment: DCEA, Social Welfare Functions, and Inequality-Aversion Approaches." Three panelists surveyed a continuum of approaches to the topic. Professor Emeritus Susan Griffin (York University) presented the Distributional Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (DCEA) approach, focusing on aversion to population health inequality. Dr. Ian Davis drew from his recently completed USC doctoral dissertation, incorporating consumption inequity in a two-good model. Provost Emeritus Chuck Phelps (Rochester) presented a welfare economics approach using the GRACE framework to adjust for illness severity and disability. Each panelist addressed how rewards for inequality reduction could be estimated within their respective frameworks.



Lou Garrison, Marlene Gylmark, & Mark Nuijten.



Ian Davis, Susan Griffin, Chuck Phelps, & Lou Garrison.

Equity Permeates the Value Flower (of 2018)

DCEA does not sit in the Equity petal alone — it re-weights QALYs, costs, and other petals once a concave social welfare function is adopted



Strength of equity connection

- STRONG** (petals welfare frameworks treat as equity)
 - Severity of disease — Phelps R, NICE severity modifier
 - Productivity — Davis second good; consumption channel
 - Insurance value — financial-risk protection concave in wealth
 - Fear of contagion — externalities track SES & occupational exposure
- MODERATE** (operates through access or expectations)
 - Adherence-improving factors — adherence is socially patterned
 - Value of hope — salient for severely ill, underserved populations
- WEAK / CONTEXTUAL** (indirect or indication-specific)
 - Real option value — access to future innovation socially patterned
 - Scientific spillovers — rare-disease platforms benefit other underserved areas

Three Frameworks at a Glance

Ordered by scope of welfare: health only → health + consumption → full expected utility

Feature	Griffin <i>Aggregate DCEA</i>	Davis <i>Two-good DCEA</i>	Phelps <i>GRACE-ful SWF</i>
Welfare scope	Health (QALYs)	Health + consumption	Full expected utility
Theoretical tradition	Extra-welfarist/ Social decision-making (SWF not required)	Hybrid (uses GRACE)	Welfarist (Harsanyi SWF)
Equity mechanism	Reduction in population unfair inequality	Augmented two-good Atkinson	Severity, disability, rarity, ψ weights
Role of CE threshold	Health opportunity cost (central)	MRS between C and H (K)	WTP (K) per healthy year
Equity premium output	EDE-QALY differential	Complementary investment \$	$D \times R \times \psi$ multiplier on K
HTA adoption	Operational (NICE-applied)	Emerging (research frontier)	Theoretical backbone

ISPOR HIGHLIGHTS

ISPOR Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA

The CHOICE Institute had a strong presence at the 2026 ISPOR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (May 17–20), with faculty, fellows, and students presenting 24 research posters and podiums, and contributing to some of the conference's most prominent sessions.

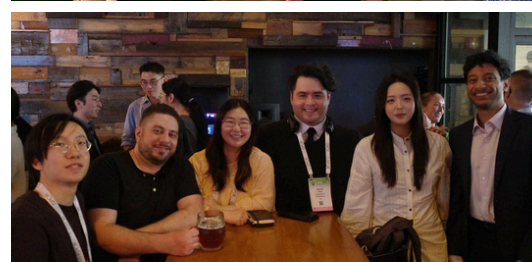
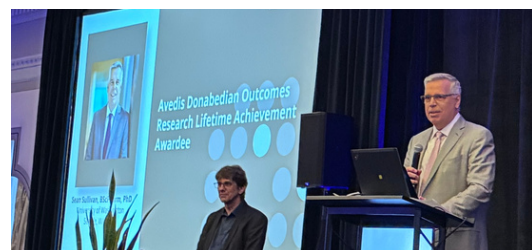
The week opened with two major award recognitions at the ISPOR Awards Ceremony: Professor **Sean D. Sullivan** received the Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement Award, ISPOR's highest honor. This award recognizes a career of sustained contribution to the science and practice of improving healthcare quality, value and decision-making. [Read more.](#)

Also at the awards ceremony, PhD alumnus **Dr. Boshen Jiao, PhD ('22)** received the Bernie O'Brien New Investigator Award, which honors 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. We are especially proud that this award reflects the mentorship and training Boshen received at UW, including under the guidance of his dissertation chair, Professor **Anirban Basu**. Congratulations, Boshen! [Read more.](#)

CHOICE members were well-represented in featured sessions throughout the week. Professor Sullivan presented value-based pricing and CMS drug price negotiation. Professor Emerita and ISPOR President **Beth Devine** delivered the Presidential Address and moderated a spotlight session on LLM workflows for global HTA submissions. 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.

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.

[Read more](#) and download the full [CHOICE Guide for ISPOR 2026](#) (which includes links to the posters and abstracts from all our students).



CHOICE KUDOS

✉ Want to acknowledge a colleague in a future newsletter? Submit a kudos to Marina Gano at mcgano@uw.edu.

Thank you to **Preetika and Carlos** for the fantastic work all year for the certificate programs. Their timely support to students, enthusiastic commitment to digital accessibility learning and updates, development of student resources, and problem-solving and creative improvement ideas really enhanced the programs! - Leana de la Torre

I want to thank **Kyu, Marina, Zilin, Sam, and Lijia** for all your efforts in putting together an amazing, entertaining, and engaging retreat. It was a pleasure to attend this after two years, and your work helped to bring our community closer together - Anirban Basu

Kudos to the team who organized the 2026 CHOICE Annual Retreat. - Andy Stergachis

Thank you, **Tom**, for all of your support this year - from teaching bootcamp, hosting office hours, and responding to our last-minute emails. We wouldn't have survived without you! - MS Fellows (Drew, Janice, Jonathan, Jacob)

ANNUAL RETREAT: 2026 CHOICE WORLD CUP

Congratulations to the champions of the CHOICE Cup, the citizens of Evidencea: Noemi Kreif, Satoshi Koiso, Brian Bresnahan, and Ruihan Qin. Thank you to our retreat photographers, Scott Braswell & Lijia Zheng!





SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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