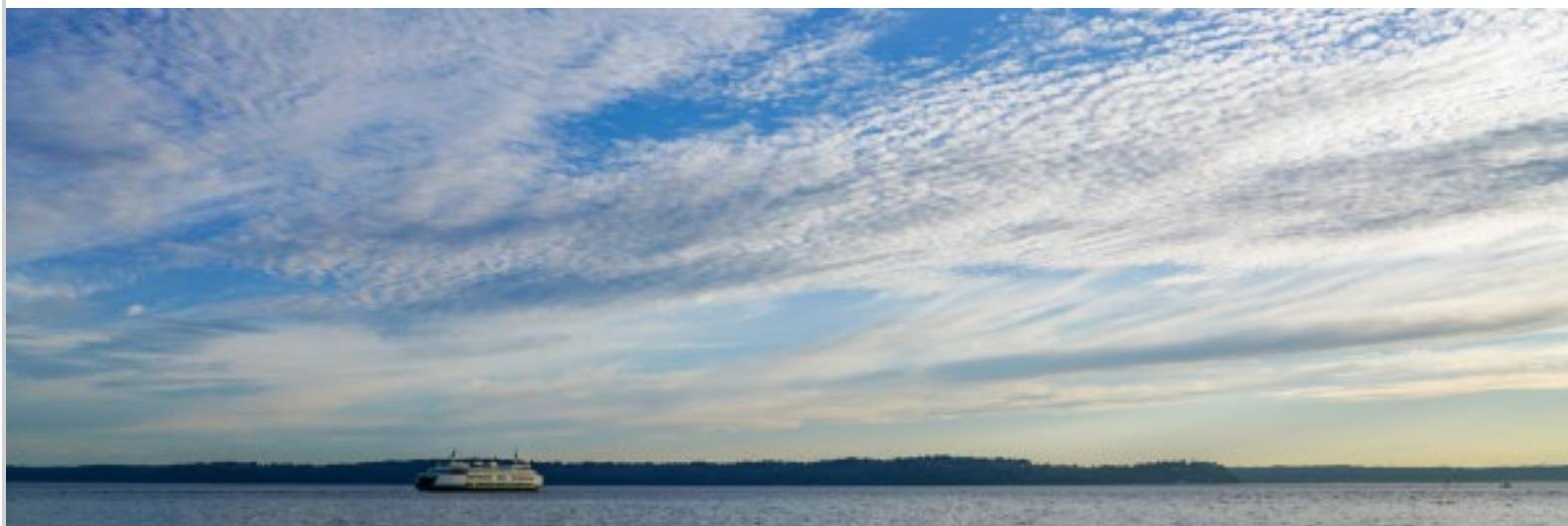


# W THE CHOICE INSTITUTE

## School of Pharmacy

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### Director's Welcome

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are once again thrilled to share our activities and achievements at the CHOICE Institute during the Winter quarter of 2024. We organized a letter to submit to CMS, calling out their plan to stop sharing physical CMS data with academic institutions. This is a misconstrued plan, as detailed in the letter, now signed by over 450 academic researchers. The option to sign the letter is available below. Congratulations to our third-year PhD student, Felipe Montano-Campos, for being awarded the Latino Center for Health Fellowship. We also have a terrific group of master's and PhD students in the job market this year. Their profiles can be found [here](#). We are also excited to welcome our largest cohort of MS fellows to date- with the launch of our two new industry partnerships, with Novo Nordisk and Sanofi. Finally, our ISPOR social reception announcement is out (see RSVP link below). We hope to see many of you there!

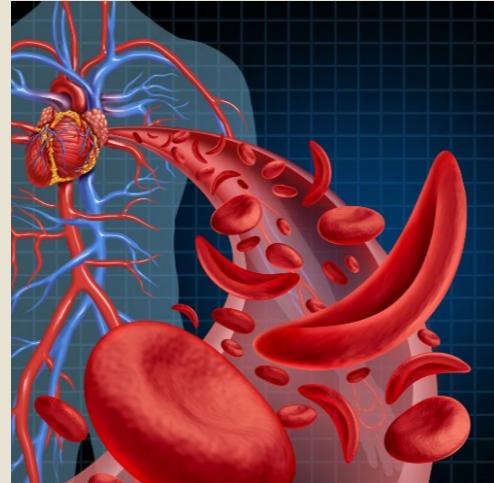
Sincerely,

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



## WINTER QUARTER UPDATES

Highlighted are some of the many activities at The CHOICE Institute from this quarter.



### [RSVP to the CHOICE Alumni & Friends ISPOR Reception in Atlanta](#)

We are excited to invite you to the 2024 ISPOR Social Reception hosted by the University of Washington CHOICE Institute and School of Pharmacy! Join us for drinks and appetizers at Wild Leap Atlanta-- down the street from the Georgia World Congress Center. See you in Atlanta!

### [Felipe Montano-Campos Awarded Latino Center for Health Fellowship](#)

Congratulations to PhD student Felipe Montano-Campos for being awarded the Fellowship from the Latino Center for Health. An interdisciplinary health sciences research center at the University of Washington, the Latino Center for Health is committed to improving the health and well-being of Latinx individuals, families, and communities in Washington state.

### [CEA of Gene Therapy in Sickle Cell Disease Published by CHOICE Team](#)

An analysis led by Professor Anirban Basu & funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), suggests that compared with the life-long costs of treating sickle cell disease (SCD), a potential one-time gene therapy treatment will significantly reduce morbidity, improve survival, and reduce the cost of care over patients' lifetimes compared to conventional care.



## CHOICE Faculty Organize Letter to CMS in Response to Data Request and Access Policy Changes

Over 450 academic researchers spanning over 100 institutions across the United States signed a letter that we organized in response to the request for information by CMS titled 'Research Data Request and Access Policy Changes' issued on February 12th, 2024. The letter points out that the policy changes proposed by CMS, especially those related to the decision that "*CMS is discontinuing the delivery of physical data extracts in support of external research projects,*" are incredibly detrimental to public health and scientific progress in the United States. The proposed changes in the Research Data Request and Access Policy will **put the future of such research in jeopardy, erode academic freedom, directly harm Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries' access to and quality of care, hamper the Administrator's ability to protect the trust fund, and frustrate the agency's rulemaking toward the goals mentioned above.**

The letter was submitted to CMS in February. However, a dynamic version of the letter, which is continuing to be signed, is available [here](#). If you haven't signed yet and wish to add your support, you can do so [here](#).

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The CHOICE Institute is pleased to announce our 2024-26 cohort of HEOR Fellows who will start their programs this July. This year, we are excited to be welcoming our largest cohort of fellows to date- with the launch of our two new industry partnerships, with Novo Nordisk and Sanofi. [Meet the fellows.](#)

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Congratulations to PhD student **Emma Cousin**, Professor **Sean D. Sullivan** and their collaborators for receiving a [PhRMA Foundation](#) Challenge Award. The PhRMA Foundation awarded \$25,000 Challenge Awards to the authors of three manuscripts that explore crucial challenges faced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in implementing the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program. Their paper, titled, [Medicare Drug Price Negotiation: The Complexities of Selecting Therapeutic Alternatives for Estimating Comparative Effectiveness](#), describes the process and intricacies of

selecting therapeutic alternatives for the first 10 drugs subject to Medicare price negotiation. This work was a collaboration between the University of Washington, The London School of Economics & Political Science, and funded by The Commonwealth Fund.

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Assistant Professor **Clayton English** and his co-investigators, Associate Professor **Jenny Bacci** and Professor **Andy Stergachis**, received a 2023 Garvey Institute for Brain Health Solutions (GIBHS) Innovation Grant award in November. Their project is titled, "Partnering with community pharmacies to enhance access to long-acting injectable antipsychotics (LAIAs) in Washington State." This project will explore the appropriateness, acceptability, and feasibility of administering LAIAs at community pharmacies, which, if implemented, could potentially increase access to treatment, improve patient outcomes, and expand the delivery of behavioral health services provided by pharmacists. GIBHS funded 12 projects that develop and test innovative partnerships that extend the impact of mental health professionals in Washington state. [Learn more.](#)

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Several CHOICE PhD students & alumni including **Samantha Clark** (PhD grad '22), **Ben Nwogu** (3rd year student), and **Rachel Wittenauer** (4th year student) recently co-authored a publication in *The Lancet HIV* titled, "Impact of self-testing for oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) on drug resistance and HIV outcomes in Western Kenya: a modeling study," which evaluated the impact of using HIV self-testing to inform expanded access to and use of PrEP. [Read more.](#)

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Assistant Professor **Jing Li** gave an invited presentation at the University of Pennsylvania's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics (Penn LDI) Research Seminar in January. The title of her presentation is: "Social Preferences of U.S. Physicians: Experimental and Observational Data". [Read more.](#)

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Assistant Professor **Clayton English** was recently appointed to the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists Foundation (AAPPF) Board of Directors for a three-year term starting in January 2024. The foundation

is the philanthropic arm of AAPP and its charge is to advance the field of psychiatric pharmacy and the profession through supporting research, scholarship, and development of clinical practitioners. [Learn more.](#)

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In December, PhD Student **Shiven Bhardwaj**, along with his team at Healthsperien, launched a whitepaper on how public sector purchasers partner with PBMs to address rising drug costs. They also presented their findings in a webinar. Full report and webinar can be [found here.](#)

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**ISPOR Chapter Update | By Ben Nwogu, Chapter President**

On Friday, January 26, 2024, the UW ISPOR Chapter organized a captivating industry career talk event entitled “Market Access Strategies: Understanding the Value of Care in the Pharmaceutical Industry.” The keynote speaker for the event was Edouard Lassalle, Associate Director of Market Access Operations & Analytics at Jazz Pharmaceuticals. Mr. Lassalle shared valuable insights into the intricate process of introducing pharmaceutical products into both the US and international markets. His presentation delved into country-specific disparities in value assessment, pricing strategies, and reimbursement approaches. The event garnered substantial attendance, incorporating a hybrid format that facilitated physical participation for most attendees, complemented by a virtual presence via Zoom for others. The dynamic interaction between the students and the speaker underscored the event's success in fostering engagement and knowledge exchange. Looking ahead, the Chapter's leadership is gearing up for another compelling industry-focused career event scheduled for the upcoming Spring quarter. Nina Hill, an esteemed CHOICE alumna and a seasoned HEOR (Health Economics and Outcomes Research) expert with a wealth of industry experience, is slated to be the featured speaker.

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**Nominate a School of Pharmacy Alumni for the 2024 PAA Distinguished Alumni Award**

The UW School of Pharmacy and the Pharmacy Alumni Association (PAA) invite you to recognize exceptional

School of Pharmacy alumni by nominating one or more colleagues for the School's 2024 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Presented annually by the Pharmacy Alumni Association, these awards recognize graduates who demonstrate excellence in the profession, are connected to the School, and have a positive impact on the pharmacy and research community regionally and/or nationally. Awards will be presented in spring 2024. In recognition of both our professional and graduate programs at the School of Pharmacy, two awards are given to exceptional alumni each year. One award honors an outstanding graduate working in Pharmaceutical Sciences/Research, while the other recognizes an outstanding graduate working in Pharmacy Practice. UWSOP PhD, MS, PharmD and BS graduates are all eligible for nomination. For questions, please email [rxalumni@uw.edu](mailto:rxalumni@uw.edu) or call 206-616-7613.

### **CHOICE Kudos**

*Kudos to Felipe for being part of the admission committee and spearheading the effort to connect prospective and current students.* - Shiven B.

*Kudos to Ashley for bringing the energy to happy hours!*  
-Rachel W.

*Kudos to Leana for all of her amazing work on our certificate programs, including taking the time to add closed captions for all lectures, which has significantly improved the accessibility of our online course content!* -Marina G.

### **CHOICE BLOG: INCREMENTAL THOUGHTS**



### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

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