

SPRING / SUMMER 2023

DAWG SCRIPTS

PHARMACY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NEWS

A New Era

DR. JAY PANYAM NAMED DEAN OF
THE UW SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The Roots Of A Legacy

ALUM NANCY MCELHERON
DISCOVERS A SURPRISING
UWSOP CONNECTION

Distinguished Alumni Awards

THIS YEAR'S DAA WINNERS
EACH SHARE THEIR PERSONAL
CONNECTION TO THE AWARD

PhRESH Perspective

STUDENT GROUP PLAYS VITAL
ROLE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
EDUCATION EFFORTS

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. Although I regretfully couldn't attend the annual Dean's Recognition Reception due to a recent encounter with COVID, I've heard nothing but praise about this year's exceptional event.

I trust that each of you took the opportunity to reconnect with your colleagues and celebrate the remarkable achievements of the past year.

It gives me great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the recipients of this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards: **Donavon McConn** (Distinguished Alumni in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research), **Kari VanderHouwen** (Distinguished Alumni in Pharmacy Practice) and **Mark Bounthavong** (Early Career Achievement). These esteemed professionals not only exemplify excellence but are also dear friends and fellow alumni of UWSOP. For those who couldn't attend the event, you can browse an engaging gallery of images in this issue, along with access to the winners' presentations via the online video at *Digital Dawg Scripts*.

Additionally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our School's new Dean, **Dr. Jay Panyam**, who attended the DRR event alongside his family. We are all eager to become acquainted with him and collaborate in the coming year. In the meantime,

I encourage you to delve into the Q&A with Dean Panyam, which is featured in this issue. While reading through this edition, you'll come across several articles accompanied by QR codes. I urge you to scan these codes, granting you access to our online magazine, *Digital Dawg Scripts*. There, you will discover new UWSOP videos and photo galleries, enriching your reading experience.

Lastly, please stay informed about future opportunities to gather and reconnect by referring to the event calendar on the UWSOP website. It serves as your comprehensive source for the latest details on upcoming events this fall.

Scott Herzog, '03
President,
Pharmacy Alumni Association

DAWG SCRIPTS MAGAZINE

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Dear UW School of Pharmacy alumni and friends,

It is hard to believe I've been serving as the UW School of Pharmacy's Interim Dean for almost a year now, and by the time you read the next issue of *Dawg Scripts*, I will have handed over the reins to our School's new Dean, **Dr. Jay Panyam**. We're so excited to have Jay join us, and I know you'll enjoy many opportunities to get to know him and his family this year when he settles in on campus full time.

I am grateful for the opportunity to help our School navigate this year, and it has been a very successful one. We have witnessed some outstanding accomplishments throughout the year, including achieving an 87% residency match rate, the best in the history of the School, and one of the top residency match rates in the country. We also battled the tide of declining enrollments across the country and posted 107 admitted students for the class of 2027 – right at the goal we set. Our research programs

are strong and continue to develop. We onboarded several new talented faculty this year who are brilliant scientists and practitioners, and are poised to continue our leadership in the pharmacy field.

Another success story from the past year includes our accreditation reviews, which re-emphasized the strength of our academic programs. On the tail-end of a pandemic, our PharmD program received the highest marks with full accreditation for 8 years, and our Graduate Programs were equally as successful, with continuation approval of all three programs, inclusive of both masters and PhD degrees, for the next 10 years.

Beyond these wonderful achievements, a key goal this year has been to help us all feel reconnected after a few years of remote or more limited in-person connections, and to strengthen our sense of belonging as a community. Through engagement with several School groups, including our elected Faculty Council and Executive Committee, we continued the important focus on ensuring salary levels for faculty and staff were appropriate and that people felt a renewed sense of being valued and seen for the outstanding work they do. I think we've made great strides in this regard, and I know we'll continue to strengthen those efforts.

Another component connecting our community throughout the year involved investing in our vision for the new PharmD Purple Curriculum, which has been a

tremendous success. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of our UWSOP colleagues, including many of you as alumni, faculty, staff and preceptors, we are on a positive path to fulfilling that vision. In fact, this year we got to witness the curriculum's first graduating class of "Husky Pharmacists", an exciting and heartwarming ceremony we celebrated in June. This outstanding accomplishment is the culmination of a tremendous amount of dedication, talent, and perseverance of so many. I couldn't be more thrilled and proud to have been a part of this effort.

These accomplishments are symbolic of the power and reach of this entire community, which never ceases to amaze me. Your efforts as alumni have played no small part in our School's success, and I want to express to you my gratitude for your partnership, support and generosity over the last year – it has been my pleasure to serve you as Interim Dean, and an honor to be of support to this precious community I call home. I'm excited to join you as an alum and celebrate the many extraordinary successes to come.

Peggy Soule Odegard
BS Pharm '85, PharmD '90
Interim Dean and Professor
UW School of Pharmacy

2022

IMPACT REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



88%

JOB OR POST-RESIDENCY FELLOWSHIP PLACEMENT AT GRADUATION



#2

BEST PHARMACY SCHOOL IN THE U.S. (PHARMACY TECHNICIAN INSTITUTE)



\$5M+

IN 2022 STUDENT SUPPORT



7:1

PHARMD PROGRAM'S STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO



136

TOTAL PHARMD, PHD AND MS DEGREES GRANTED IN 2021-22



\$163M

IN GRANTS IN THE LAST 7 YEARS

Visit *Digital Dawg Scripts* online by scanning the QR code below and access the full UWSOP Impact Report, as well as other multimedia content.





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I am thrilled about joining and leading this community of trailblazers.

- JAY PANYAM

UWSOP Welcomes New Dean, Dr. Jay Panyam

On the eve of a busy summer preparing to move his family from Philadelphia to Seattle, **Dr. Jay Panyam** graciously took time to talk about his role as the UW School of Pharmacy's new Dean.

Looking back, what initially sparked your interest in the field of pharmacy?

I grew up watching movies like *The Absent-Minded Professor* and *Fantastic Voyage*, and later reading medical mysteries by Robin Cook. As a kid, I had imagined making scientific discoveries and finding new drugs, like in those movies and books.

I initially wanted to go to medical school because I used to think physicians find new drugs. Once I realized that drugs were a purview of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, pharmacy became my passion.

After my degree in pharmacy, I wanted to pursue research in pharmaceutical sciences, especially in the area of novel formulations, and so continued on to graduate school. I am incredibly fortunate to have been able to pursue a career that I dreamt of as a kid!

What excites you about this role and our program?

UW School of Pharmacy has been a leader in all aspects of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences – education, scholarship, and practice. The faculty, students and alumni have contributed to practice advances and advocacy that have made Washington one of the most progressive states to practice in. Pharmaceutical sciences faculty members are highly respected researchers in the areas of drug metabolism, toxicology, and bioanalytical chemistry, as well as drug delivery and disposition. I am thrilled about joining and leading this community of trailblazers.

We have a very passionate, dedicated alumni community. How do you see their partnership with the School evolving in the coming years?

I believe alumni are a cornerstone of the School and are our best ambassadors.

During my time at Temple, I worked closely with the school's alumni on many different fronts. Many alumni members participated as recruiters and interviewers for PharmD admissions, judges for research recognition day posters, mentors and preceptors for professional pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences graduate students. I worked closely with the alumni association to help raise scholarship funds through organized events, such as an annual golf tournament and 5K race.

I expect to build a similar close relationship with UWSOP alumni to advance the mission of the school.

What are you and your family most looking forward to about living in the Pacific Northwest?

The great outdoors! We cannot wait to take in the breathtaking scenery, great many national parks, and the proximity to both lakes and hills. My wife and I are runners, and we are excited to run on the many natural trails that Seattle has to offer.

UW SCHOOL OF PHARMACY 2023 DEAN'S RECOGNITION RECEPTION



The 2023 edition of the UWSOP Dean's Recognition Reception, held at UW's Burke Museum, welcomed UWSOP alumni, faculty and staff for an evening of reconnection and celebration. Scan the QR code at left to access **Digital Dawg Scripts** and view a gallery of images from the event.





The Roots of a Legacy

Nancy McElheron, '92, was in search of her father's lineage, but a random DNA test revealed an unexpected connection with a UWSOP legend.

Tacoma, Washington native and UWSOP alum Nancy McElheron, '92, spent 27 years in the pharmacy arena before retiring in 2019. And though a long and fulfilling professional tenure was coming to an end at that time, a brand new, and very personal journey was just beginning.

For years, Nancy had been curious about the origins of her father, William Gregory, a successful accountant, influential community leader and UW alum who passed away when she was 27. A beloved father of three daughters (Nancy and her sisters Kathryn and Joan), Mr. Gregory had been adopted as a child, and his lineage had always been a bit of a mystery to his children, so with her retirement now freeing up some extra time, Nancy put her UWSOP-ingrained research skills to work in a different arena

– her family history – and began digging... and digging...

...and digging.

"I went through all the King County records, the courthouse – even the libraries," she recalled. "And I got nowhere. They wouldn't open his adoption and birth records without his signature."

Exasperated on the heels of that unsuccessful expedition, Nancy and her sisters took the research to the next level and hired an investigator who was finally able to unseal her father's adoption records, resulting in the discovery that he had been born in the Philippines in 1923 to Lois Richards and "Joe Filipino", who, as discovered later, was an international Filipino undergraduate student studying business at the UW. For Nancy and her sisters, this

reveal cleared the path to seek out other branches of their family tree, so they continued their research journey through the popular DNA testing site *23andMe*. A few weeks passed, and when the results arrived, Nancy and her family discovered that those family roots were much deeper and more expansive than they had ever imagined.

"There were 20 or 30 names that were potentially relatives of ours," she said. "And the day after I received the list, I was contacted through *23andMe* by a woman named GiGi Orosa. She said, 'I think we might be cousins', so I sent her a picture of my Dad and asked, 'Could he be from your family?' She then sent me a picture of her great grandfather, and they looked exactly alike."

"I burst into tears."

After years of searching and researching, Nancy finally found her father's family. But the story definitely didn't end there. Two years ago, Nancy flew to New York to meet some of her 'new' family, the Orosas, and soon discovered she was also related to someone who just happened to not only be one of the UWSOP's most revered alums, but also a pharmacy pioneer in the field of food chemistry – **Maria Orosa**.

Prior to this stunning discovery, Nancy had never heard of Maria, and the fact that she also followed a pharmacy career path that led her to the UW – just like her famous ancestor – was pure coincidence.

"It's so strange that we both happened to not only choose pharmacy as a career, but chose the UW to study – maybe it's in the DNA," she joked.

COURAGE BY EXAMPLE

"For a woman to have the courage to step on a steamship in the 1900s, travel all the way to the the United States, support herself while earning her education (she worked in the canneries in Alaska to support herself financially), and accomplish what she did, was absolutely amazing," said Nancy.

"After accomplishing all that she did here, and breaking down those barriers, she decided to leave to help her own people. That speaks to her commitment to health-care and to serve her communities."

After graduating from the UW, Maria returned to the Philippines where her vision for a self-sustaining country would lead to her many innovations around fermenting, dehydrating, and preserving the local plants and animals.

Though her most famous food invention is banana ketchup, in which she reimagined the popular sauce by replacing the out-sourced tomatoes with locally abundant bananas, Maria's Soyalac (a protein-rich powered soybean product) and Darak Cookies (made from rice bran and containing Vitamins A, D, E and B complexes) remain her greatest achievements. During World War II, she smuggled those goods into concentration camps, saving thousands of Filipino and American prisoners of war from starvation.

"I think it's fascinating, because of the culture now, where there's more appreciation for accomplishments of women like Maria," said Nancy. "I wish I would've known about her earlier."

"She would have been amazing to meet."

A LEGEND'S JOURNEY



Maria Orosa was a food technologist, pharmaceutical chemist, humanitarian and war hero. To tell her whole story would fill an entire book, so here are a few of many important accomplishments that are a part of this legendary UW pharmacist's enduring legacy:



Maria moved to the United States at the age of 23 (some accounts say she was a stowaway). She was a government-sponsored scholar at the University of Washington. There, she earned a bachelors and a masters degree in pharmaceutical chemistry, as well as one in food chemistry. During her education, Maria would spend her summer breaks working in the Alaskan canneries.



Though she earned a position as an assistant chemist for the state of Washington in 1922, she instead chose to return to the Philippines. Upon her return, she taught home economics at Centro Escolar University and would later transfer to the Bureau of Science organizing the food preservation division.



A humanitarian at heart, Maria had a vision of empowering the Filipino family. She launched Health, Heart, Head and Hand (4-H) Clubs. This organization brought herself and other educators into rural areas and barrios to teach women how to raise poultry and preserve food, as well as how to prepare and plan meals. She developed over 400 recipes along the way, and by 1924, the organization had over 22,000 members.



The Bureau of Science recognized Maria's efforts and promoted her to head of the Home Economics Division and the Division of Food Preservation. Her work with the bureau would send her all over the world to research canning and preserving technologies.



Some of Maria's most known contributions to the food world came during World War II. She was beloved within Filipino households for her banana ketchup, but became a war hero for her two other inventions: Soyalac and Darak. Soyalac is a protein-rich, highly nutritious powdered soybean product. Darak is a rice by-product that is high in B vitamins, thiamine, and vitamins A, D, and E (intended to fight the vitamin B deficiency disease, beriberi). Ironically, while saving American and Filipino lives, Maria was killed by friendly U.S. fire during the war.

Origin Story: The History of Maria Orosa's Famous Banana Ketchup



When Americans colonized the Philippines in 1898, they introduced elements of their cuisine, and ketchup became a popular condiment. But it was expensive to import, and tomatoes would not thrive in the tropical Philippine climate. So Maria set about making her own version. **Banana ketchup**, which she created in the 1930s, is smoother and more viscous than the tomato version, making it a bit harder to shake out of the bottle. The concoction – made of hardy local saba bananas, sugar, vinegar and spices, with a dash of red coloring to make it look more like the imported version – is now a staple on the shelves of Philippine grocery stores.

Congratulations 2022 DAA Recipients



Donavon McConn, '01,

VP, Non-Clinical Development, XinThera, Inc.



Kari VanderHouwen, '92

Pharmacist & Owner, Duvall Family Drugs



Mark Bounthavong, '18

Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, UC San Diego

Congratulations to **Donavon McConn, '01** (Distinguished Alumni in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research), **Kari VanderHouwen, '92** (Distinguished Alumni in Pharmacy Practice) and **Mark Bounthavong, '18** (Early Career Achievement), this year's recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Read below about what the award means to them.

» DONAVON McCONN



I'm grateful to the UW community for essentially giving me a network that has been incredibly valuable for my whole career, and for giving me training that was free. People before me had to raise money to support graduate students when I was there, and as a student I received fellowship money for no skill of my own, but because people were financially helping the School. Now, I'm blessed to have that responsibility to help out in any way I can.

» KARI VANDERHOEWEN



This award means the world to me. Promoting and supporting pharmacy, in Washington state and across the nation, is, again, a passion for me, and to be recognized for my contributions in making sure that that's happened is amazing. I'm just a small, single store owner. We're just living in our little space and doing what we do, and supporting our community. For people to recognize that is special.

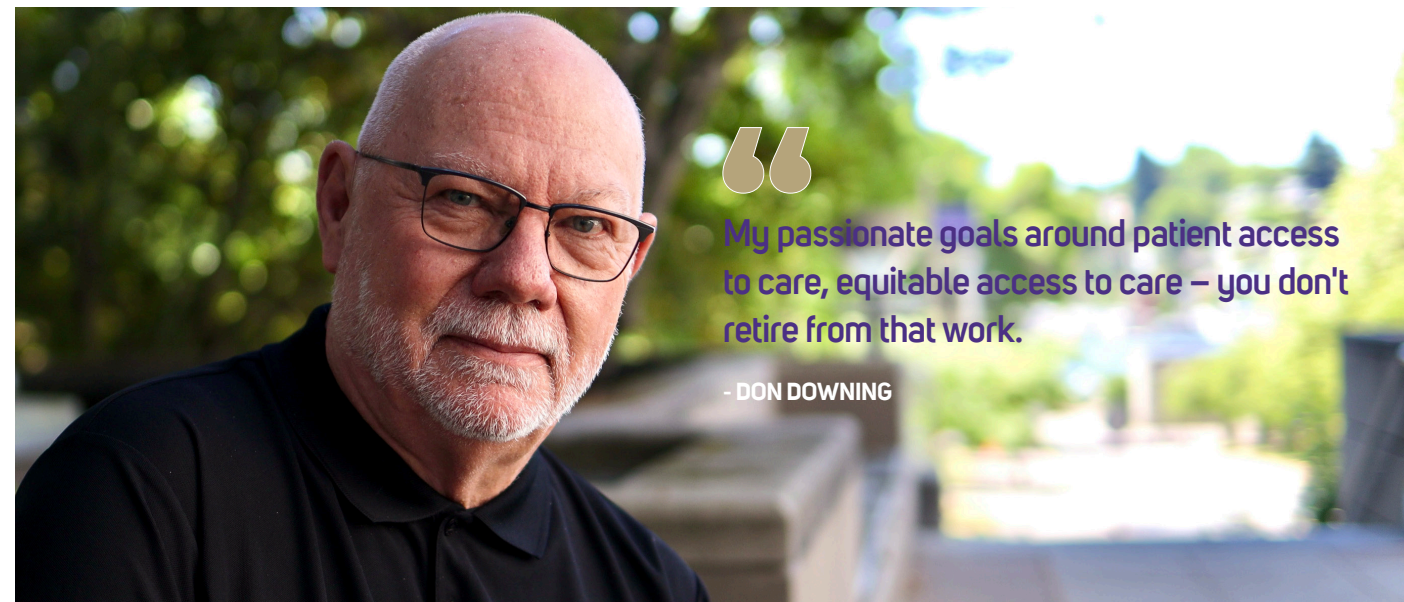
» MARK BOUNTHAVONG



Being recognized by the UW Pharmacy Alumni Association is really a big thank you to those individuals who have helped me to shape my career and character. I really would not be here today without their love and support. This award is a renewal of my commitment to the mission of the UWSOP. I hope I live up to that and will maintain these values at my own institution and throughout my career.



Unable to attend the **Dean's Recognition Reception** in May? Watch the full **Distinguished Alumni Award** presentation video by accessing the QR code.



My passionate goals around patient access to care, equitable access to care – you don't retire from that work.

- DON DOWNING

A UW Pharmacy Pioneer Moves On to New Adventures

After 27 years of service, **Don Downing, '75**, will retire from the UWSOP this summer. He took time to sit down with us and share some memories of a storied career.

WHY DID YOU FEEL NOW IS THE TIME TO RETIRE?

Well, I don't really feel like I'm retiring. My passionate goals around patient access to care, equitable access to care – you don't retire from that work. I'm 72 years old now, and I've been doing this for the last 27 years, with no regrets. But I have more things to do. My wife and I want to travel – we have an Airstream trailer. And we have two grandkids that need more time with grandpa. And I'm also playing right now with four (four!) musical groups. It's time to hand the baton off to young people with fresh ideas.

LET'S GO BACK IN TIME A BIT. WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

I was born and raised in Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula. I grew up in a town where my mother's father had been mayor and port commissioner and was very involved in civic life and in the town, and although he died while my mom was pregnant with me, I grew up with him, idolizing him. I spent my childhood on the north end of the Olympic Peninsula headquarters in Olympic National Park. The mountains were right behind me, and the water – lakes and streams – was right in front of me, so it was a playground.

Growing up in a small town gave me a blue collar, grassroots education, but I also had multiple friends who are Native American because we had the Lower Elwha Tribe, the Makah Tribe, and the James Town S'Klallam Tribe there were all nearby and had a lot of friends who are native and gave me insights into marginalized human beings.

THAT INSPIRED YOUR WORK WITH INDIGENOUS TRIBES?

Yeah, without a doubt. It really opened my eyes. I saw how they were discriminated against and had to abandon their culture – dress and act like everyone else – just to fit in. That had a big impact on me. I guess I look back and think it's no wonder I got involved in starting up the first urban tribal clinic in the country, the Seattle Indian Health Board Clinic – and the other clinics that followed. That really came from, I think, a sensitivity to the unmet needs of that population of people.

ADVICE TO ASPIRING PHARMACISTS?

I talk to students a lot about remembering where your covenant is. You can graduate really smart and know a lot of stuff, but you've got to be able to apply it to the patient's needs – and not by just selling them more and more drugs. And so that's been sort of my mantra for quite some time: "Patient first, patient first, patient first."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR CAREER?

I think there's two things. My work in reproductive health – it turns out, there aren't that many of us in the pharmacy world involved in that. And especially in today's environment, where there's assaults on women's access to health care every single day. I'm very proud that I've stood up and done meaningful things to improve access, despite that often being the most unpopular thing I could have done. Yeah. Emotionally, that's probably what I'm most proud of. I think, policy wise, it's been creating the pharmacist as a medical provider bill in the state of Washington. I took me 15 years to do that, and in the end, to succeed after 15 years working on it – I'm very proud of that. I'm hoping that it'll transform our profession in this state and provide a role model for pharmacists everywhere.



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I hope to one day see this in the market
– affordable, and accessible to everyone
around the world.

- ANDY KIM (TRIAL VOLUNTEER)

Clinical Trial for Pioneering HIV Long-Acting Treatment Underway

In May, the UW TLC-ART program, a leading innovator in long-acting and Targeted therapy, announced the initiation of the first-in-human clinical trial for its groundbreaking 3-HIV drug combination product, TLC-ART 101. This trial, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), represents a significant milestone in UW TLC-ART's mission to revolutionize HIV treatment and improve patient outcomes.

TLC-ART's drug-combination nanoparticle (DcNP) platform and the TLC-ART 101 product have emerged as a result of a grant awarded in 2014 and funded in July 2015 to Principal Investigators, **Dr. Rodney JY Ho** and **Dr. Ann C Collier**. Leveraging their expertise and the dedication of the interdisciplinary team – including the experience of clinical director **Dr. Rachel Bender Ignacio** – the UW Pharmacy and Medicine team has developed TLC-ART 101, a novel, long-acting three HIV-drugs combined in one injection. Currently long-acting HIV treatment contains only a single drug. Subcutaneous injection provides option for self-administration like that for insulin self-injection by

patients. These 3 HIV drugs have over 20 years of demonstrated safety and efficacy when taken orally.

The objective of the NIH supported first-in-human clinical trial is to assess the safety and pharmacokinetics of TLC-ART 101. By investigating the sustained and extended presence of the 3 HIV drug levels in the body from a single injection, the UW TLC-ART team aims to provide an alternative, and potentially more effective treatment option for individuals who face challenges in adhering to daily HIV medication or prefer non-oral administration. Treatment interruption and pill stoppage leads to HIV rebound and progression to AIDS. TLC-ART 101 is intended to maximally suppress HIV with less frequent dosing.

Upon successful completion of the trial, the research team plans to upgrade the nanoparticle platform using the most commonly used current antiretroviral drugs for HIV treatment worldwide. Subsequent studies will focus on evaluating the efficacy of viral suppression and the safety of the product in people living with HIV.

"The initiation of the first-in-human clinical trial for TLC-ART 101 marks a significant milestone in our journey towards developing a low-cost, globally accessible HIV treatment option," said **Dr. Rachel Bender Ignacio**, Director of UW Positive Research and Protocol Chair and Principal Investigator of the TLC-ART 101 clinical trial. "We are committed to addressing the challenges faced by individuals in low and middle-income countries, as well as those who experience barriers to daily pill-taking due to stigma, or other reasons."

Andy Kim, a research scientist and engineer at the UW Department of Comparative Medicine, volunteered for the trial and hopes the project will ensure HIV eventually goes the way of polio.

"This isn't about getting my name in the papers, but more about doing good for the community, for society, and for all of those who may be affected by the disease," he said.

"I hope to one day see this in the market – affordable, and accessible to everyone around the world."

School Of Pharmacy Retirements



Department of Pharmaceutics Professor **Shiu-Lok Hu** will be retiring this summer after a long tenure as a UWSOP faculty member, beginning in 1997.

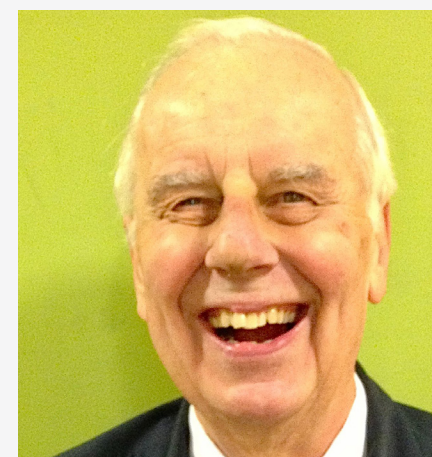
"As soon as he joined, despite his non-traditional background in PCEUT, he fit into the department right away—very much like 'sugar dissolving in water,'" said Professor **Jashvant Unadkat**. "He has been an extremely collegial colleague, making important research and teaching contributions in our graduate program. He is very humble, funny, and self-deprecating. I will miss him when he retires."

Said Professor **Rodney Ho**: "A good friend and colleague who provided stability and drive when asking hard questions in virology, and life in general."



The CHOICE Institute's programmer **William (Billy) Kreuter**, retired at the end of 2022 after thirty-three years of service at the University of Washington. He joined UW in 1989 as a senior Computer Specialist. Over this span, Billy worked in various departments and with many kinds of databases. He developed sophisticated expertise in dealing with claims data, especially those related to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services databases. Billy joined the CHOICE Institute in 2018, more recently splitting time with the Department of Emergency Medicine, and has been an integral member of many research projects, especially the CureSC Initiative project. In 2023, Billy accepted requests from the Division of Emergency Medicine and the School of Nursing to return as a post-retirement employee, helping to finish studies still in progress.

In Memoriam: Richard Eugene "Dick" Ramsey



Richard Eugene "Dick" Ramsey, '55, of Kenmore, WA, died peacefully at 90 years of age on June 4, 2023 after sharing an afternoon with his children. Dick was born January 31, 1933 in Omak, WA, and he lived until age 6 in nearby Oroville. After brief relocations to Bremerton and North

Seattle, Dick's family settled permanently in the Lakewood area of South Seattle. Dick was salutatorian of his class at Franklin High School and matriculated to the University of Washington School of Pharmacy. At UW, Dick joined ROTC and Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, where he became fraternity President, made lifelong friends, and met his wife of 56 years, Jane Wilson.

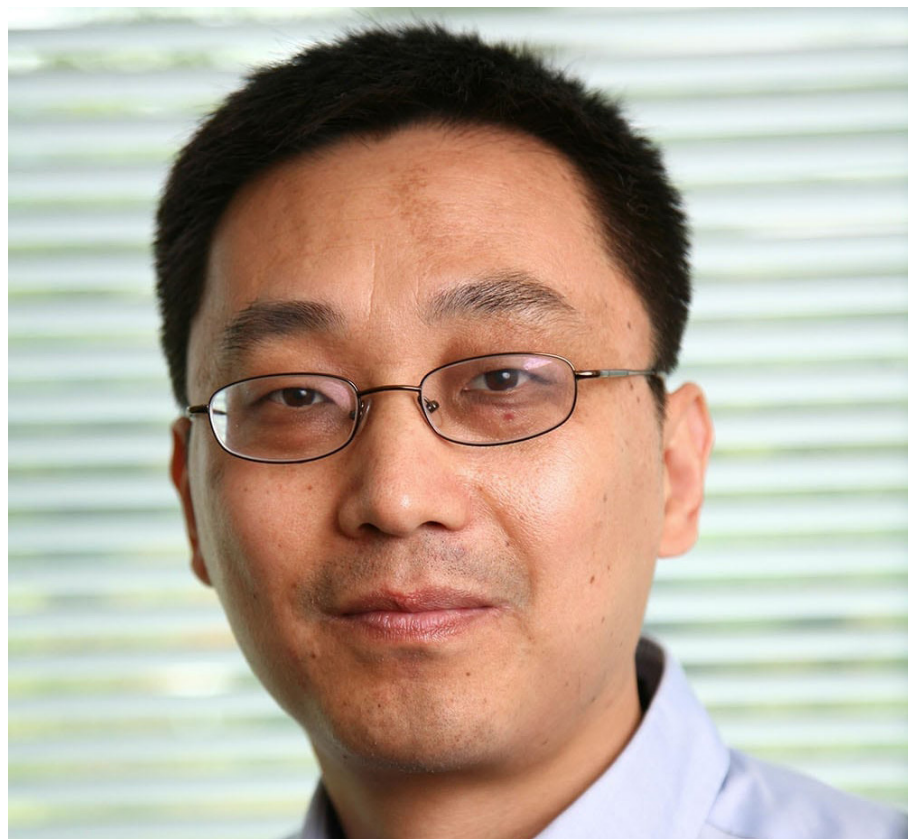
After graduation, Dick served two years in the U.S. Army, successfully defending France from Soviet invasion, and rising to the rank of Captain.

Dick and Jane advantaged that deployment, enjoying French culture and experiencing Europe when on leave. Returning to civilian life in 1957, Dick worked in pharmacy until 1963, when he purchased Ostroms Drug

& Gift in Kenmore, which remained family-owned until 2021.

Dick was a loving, caring husband and father, and was extremely generous with his time and a treasure to family, friends, employees, and the community. He is remembered fondly by many for his outgoing nature, ready smile, and encyclopedic knowledge of facts conveyed with absolute certainty, many of which were actually true.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Ithiel "Ike" Ramsey and Lillian Nora Harris, and his wife Jane Wilson Ramsey. He is survived by son Todd (Kerry) and their children Richard Ramsey and Liberty Ramsey; daughter Laura Ramsey Beaton (Mitch) and their children Keiran Beaton and Aidan Beaton; and son Colin (Lori).



In Memory of Qingcheng Mao (1964-2023)

Beloved Department of Pharmaceutics colleague, **Dr. Qingcheng Mao**, passed away in early 2023 following a brief battle with cancer. He left behind an enduring legacy as a teacher, mentor and leader.

Qingcheng made a tremendous contribution to our School's teaching and mentoring traditions, in both the PharmD and PhD programs.

After receiving his PhD from the University of Bern in Switzerland, Qingcheng did two post-doctoral fellowships – one at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and one at Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario – before joining the Department of Pharmaceutics in 2002 as an assistant professor.

He had been promoted recently to full professor in recognition of his outstanding career accomplishments.

Qingcheng was well recognized for his research studying efflux transporter structure-function, drug disposition during pregnancy, and for studying placental drug transport.

Even through his illness, Qingcheng continued to mentor his students, providing them with opportunities to develop and innovate new projects and explore their scientific passion.

He led a lab of four graduate students and one visiting student, and worked with numerous collaborators in the School of Pharmacy and the University of Washington.

Qingcheng was a wonderful colleague, always willing to help, step up to service, collaborate and take on new tasks. His presence will be deeply missed.

Colleagues' Tributes

Dr. Mao was a wonderful colleague. As a researcher, he was such a bright scientist but yet so humble. I remember at some discussions, I told him that I would not be able to grasp the concepts of his research, he replied with his gentle laugh, "I cannot do what you do – you take care of people." I miss him dearly and will keep the memories fondly.

- Suzanne Lee, Clinical Assistant Professor

In addition to Qingcheng's keen intellect, he was an incredibly kind and generous collaborator. He was also a great mentor to students, and a great friend who will be missed by all the faculty, staff and students at the UWSOP.

- Mary Herbert, Professor of Pharmacy

Qingcheng was a "dream collaborator" for many of the faculty in the School. He was humble, kind and willing to take on any task asked of him. He will be sorely missed, and his legacy will continue through his impactful research on maternal-fetal pharmacology and the many students and postdoctoral fellows he trained.

- Jash Unadkat, Professor of Pharmaceutics

From the very first day, Dr. Mao had been providing excellent support to my research. His guidance and encouragement inspired me to explore further. As a supportive mentor and an inspirational model throughout my graduate journey. He always believed in me and communicated with me as a friend. With significant contributions to transporters, he will always be remembered in his field. His loss is a huge shock to me, and he will be deeply missed by all who know him.

-Xin Chen, student

School Of Pharmacy News

SOP FACULTY RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD



Jennifer Chang, Seohyun "Claudia" Choi, Jennie Do, Karan Dawson,'78, and Leigh Ann Mike received UW's Distinguished Teaching Award for Teams at the 53rd annual Awards of Excellence Ceremony in June. Each year, the awards honor outstanding alumni, faculty, staff, students and retirees who contribute to the richness and diversity of our University community. The 'Distinguished Teaching Award for Teams' is a new honor granted to outstanding instructional teams. The winners were honored June 8 at the Katharyn Alvord Gerlich Theater in Meany Hall.

2023 ASPET AWARD WINNERS



Earlier this year, School of Pharmacy and Plein Center Research Associate Professor **Melissa Barker-Haliski** and Medicinal Chemistry post-doc **Klarissa Jackson**, '13, were named 2023 American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Award recipients.

Dr. Barker-Haliski was honored with the ASPET Division for Translational and Clinical Pharmacology Early Career Award, and Dr. Jackson received the Richard Okita Early Career Award in Drug Metabolism and Disposition.

Both awards were presented in May during the ASPET 2023 Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Additionally, Dr. Barker-Haliski and Dr. Jackson each gave a lecture on their work as part of the annual meeting.

ALEX WILEY NAMED 2023-2024 MAGNUSON SCHOLAR



Fourth-year UWSOP Medicinal Chemistry student **Alex Wiley** was named a 2023-2024 Magnuson Scholar in May. She is one of 7 awardees honored this year for both her academic performance and potential contributions to research in the health sciences. Alex, a pre-doctoral candidate who works in **Rheem Totah's** lab in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, will receive \$34,000 to support her education and research in the upcoming academic year.

FACULTY INNOVATION FUND RECIPIENTS



Endowed Associate Professor in Innovative Pharmacy Practice **Jenny Bacci** and Department of Pharmaceutics Assistant Professor **Sam Arnold** were named 2023 Faculty Innovation Fund recipients earlier this year. In collaboration with the Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research and the University of Pittsburgh, Jenny will serve as Principal Investigator on a study designed to expand community pharmacy-based vaccination programs for children and adolescents.

In partnership with Department of Pharmaceutics Affiliate Professor **Mauro Ferrari**, Sam will lead a team whose work will support the development of bumped kinase inhibitors (BKIs) for breast cancer treatment. The goal of the team's study is to both determine the impact of BKI-1553 on breast cancer cell glycolysis/glucose disposition and characterize BKI treatment effect with drug resistant breast cancer cells.



(L-to-R): Alexis Jasmine Quisao, Zoe Nicole Amaris, Garbo Grossman, Kaylin Phan.

A PhRESH Perspective

UW's first Emergency Contraception vending machine a collaborative effort.

Last summer, thanks to a resolution made by the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) to President Cauce, the UW's first Emergency Contraception vending machine debuted at Odegaard Library on UW campus.

A successful endeavor, with plans for additional vending machines in the works, the project shines as an example of the strength of UW's collaborative, unit-wide efforts.

When the ASUW student resolution requesting a machine was initially proposed, **Chris Jaehne**, who manages special projects for the Office of the Vice President for Student Life, began doing research as to how UW could follow the lead of other schools hosting EC vending machines.

"After the Supreme Court decision to overthrow *Rowe v Wade*, there was a lot of energy from students on college campuses to install reproductive health

care machines," he said. "I consulted with colleagues at UC Davis, who had also procured a machine, and **Denzil Suite** (UW Vice President of Student Life) connected me with **Ryan Hansen** ('03,'12) in the School of Pharmacy. Ryan made me aware of PhRESH (Pharmacists for Reproductive Education and Sexual Health), who were interested in helping manage the operations for the machine."

Because campus vendor Canteen wasn't initially interested in partnering to sponsor the machine, Chris had to determine an alternate route to complete such business-related tasks as procuring products for the machine and processing the transactions. That's where Ryan stepped in to help mitigate that challenge. The UWSOP Department of Pharmacy Chair is also the Executive Director of the Kelley-Ross Foundation, and he offered assistance through the Foundation to process payments using their credit card license.

"It's been going really well," said Chris, who also works with Rubenstein Pharmacy in Hall Health to source products for the machine. "Canteen ultimately sold us a used machine and helped me get it set up, and the pharmacy students learned how to program the machine and stock it on a weekly basis."

One of those students involved with the project is **Alexis Jasmine Quisao**, a second-year pharmacy student and PhRESH president. A core value deeply rooted in her pharmacy education served as one of the primary drivers for Alex to get involved with the effort: the importance of accessibility.

"Advocating for accessibility to healthcare for patients is something that is emphasized at the start of pharmacy school," she said, "so it makes the most sense for PhRESH to be responsible for helping manage this project."

In addition to access and affordability, Alexis feels the machine service offers students an additional and important advantage they wouldn't normally receive at a traditional pharmacy – the luxury of discretion.

"The process is convenient and discreet, and it also helps people avoid feeling additional stress on top of an already stressful situation," she said. "As an example, when you go to a pharmacy to get Plan B, you have to talk to more people and take extra steps to get the medication. I like to think the convenience of this vending machine helps avoid those hurdles, while also making it available at an affordable cost."

Alexis, whose myriad responsibilities includes creating a weekly schedule for restocking, and ordering medications from Hall Health Pharmacy, says the machine

dispenses a wide variety of commonly used over-the-counter medications and feminine products, including pregnancy tests, pads, tampons, loratadine, acetaminophen, and diphenhydramine. She hopes that, with the success of this program, other schools will follow suit and sponsor EC vending machines of their own.

"Hopefully more schools will take on a project like this and provide the support and guidance to make it successful," she said. "Even though we do not directly interact with whoever is using the vending machine to get Plan B, I feel fulfilled as a pharmacy student to take on this project. I know I'm helping make a difference and advocating for the community and reproductive health."

According to Chris, sales have been brisk. On average, the machine produces about 130 Plan B sales per month, and all products

are generic versions, allowing UW to offer reasonable prices – a core purpose of the project.

"I think it's been a fantastic demonstration of collaboration across different units in the university," said **Ryan Hansen**. "The students really stepped up."

In addition to managing the EC vending machine project, PhRESH students have engaged with the public at events such as the University District's Farmer's Market. Recently, student volunteers from PhRESH, the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, along with faculty and staff from the UWSOP and UW Alumni Association, distributed more than 400 Plan B kits at the University District Street Fair. The event was a huge success, and UW volunteers will return this fall to distribute more kits at the University District's Farmer's Market.



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- RYAN HANSEN



Watch PhRESH volunteers in action at the U-District Street Fair by accessing the QR code



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PHARMACY FRIDAYS PODCAST

The UWSOP's new podcast, Pharmacy Fridays, features conversations with alumni, faculty, students, and other friends in pharmacy about timely, field-related topics. Hosted by **Rachel Firebaugh**, UWSOP Clinical Assistant Professor.



Access the QR code and listen to archived episodes of the **Pharmacy Fridays** podcast.