Message from the Chair

Thank you to our faculty and staff for the outstanding work that you do each day. I’ve witnessed excellence in our department in several ways. We said farewell to a wonderful class of residents at a very special graduation evening (thank you Gwen and faculty). The Welcome picnic by our residency team was fantastic at Magnuson Park (thanks to our BBQ master chefs: Edison, Gerard and Seo). Dr. Raetz is well prepared for an upcoming ACGME site for our new rural residency training tract. Thank you Jackie. Dr. Thompson has just returned from a trip to Honduras where he is exploring with other UW investigators the opportunities for helping Honduras improve its primary care infrastructure.

Congratulations go out to Dr. Bianca Froggner on the renewal of our Center for Workforce Studies that’s a really big deal. Our MEDEX program recently hosted guests from Hawaii who are very interested in supporting training there, expanding the scope and influence of this vital physician assistant training program. Dr. Lu Marchand, in addition to just being named to our Stu and Annalu Farber Endowed Professorship, has led an exciting opportunity for the DFM to host an Osher Center of Integrative Medicine. Our sports medicine faculty continue their leadership nationally in cardiac prevention. Dr. Jim Fausto was recently chosen to lead UW Medicine Palliative Care clinical programming that’s a really big job. Our WWAMI residency network completed another successful year of fellowship training across the network. There is so much more, but you get the point (I know that I’ve left out so many of you, so will ask for your forbearance). My belief in our potential as UW Family Medicine remains unabated. We are uniquely positioned to influence the world around us for this, and future generations.

I’m proud of our Mission to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities through leadership in education, scholarship and clinical care. In the coming months, we will begin the process of revisiting our strategic plan, using our June faculty retreat as the starting point. You will receive information about this soon. In the coming months, expect to also hear news about our residency program director search. We are also beginning the search for the new holder of the Ted J. Phillips Professorship while appreciating the outstanding service that Bill Phillips so ably provided during his tenure in that position. Enjoy summer in Seattle!

Paul A. James MD
Professor and Chair
Department of Family Medicine

Department Highlights

Dr. Paul James brings rural roots and an appetite for change to the UW School of Medicine
Tacoma site and Eduardo Garza, Lecturer in Seattle.

Welcome to Lisa Kamemoto, Assistant to the MEDEX Program Director (Terry Scott), Hana Cha, Lecturer Part-Time in Tacoma, Scott Hackenbruch, Lecturer in Anchorage.

David Siebert will be joining the sports medicine and residency section beginning Aug. 1. Lizzie Williams started on July 1 as the new sports medicine fellow.

As the new chair of family medicine in the UW School of Medicine, Dr. James said he is now driven to make healthcare more affordable, accessible and of higher quality. He said he was attracted to UW because of its history of excellence in rural medicine education and for being a role model for innovation. Read the full HS NewsBeat story here.

Congrats to our 2017 Family Medicine Match Students!

MEDEX Incoming Class 2017: Healthcare As A Team Sport

On June 26th, a total of 130 new MEDEX Northwest students convened in Seattle on the campus of the University of Washington. In preparation for this day, each had been working independently on an online Anatomy and Physiology review since March. The students of the 2017 incoming class came from four different MEDEX sites—Anchorage, Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma. Over the next six weeks they will be learning, studying together and building bonds before returning to their respective site locations. Read the full story here.

Awards & Recognition

MEDEX's Lois Thetford, PA-C: Recipient of the 2017 UW Humanitarian Award

With a long history of Seattle-based community activism, MEDEX’s own Lois Thetford was honored by the UW School of Medicine Alumni Association with their 2017 Humanitarian Award in a ceremony on Friday, June 2nd. In particular, Lois was recognized for her work on behalf of the homeless. Earlier this year Lois co-chaired a UW course on “Homelessness in Seattle” for University of Washington Health Sciences students. A stated objective of this course was to teach students how to address the particular healthcare needs of homeless patients. Read more here.
Dr. Lu Marchand awarded the Stuart J and Annalu Farber Endowed Professorship in Palliative Care Education

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Lu Marchand has been awarded the Stuart J and Annalu Farber Endowed Professorship in Palliative Care Education. Dr. Marchand is highly deserving of this honor and more importantly, is an outstanding palliative care physician who embodies the educational commitment and spirit of Dr. Stu Farber. Lu is the section chief of palliative care in the UW Department of Family Medicine and director of the UW Medical Center’s Palliative Care Program that was founded by Dr. Stu Farber in 2005. We are grateful for the generosity and commitment to Palliative Care Education shown by the Farber family and look forward to recognizing them and Dr. Marchand at an event in the near future. Please join us in congratulating Lu on this tremendous honor.

Section Updates

Sports Medicine

UW Medicine is now the official provider of medical care to the Seattle Reign with Dr. Jon Drezner and John O’Kane serving as team physicians.

Dr. Kim Harmon is beginning a two-year term as Chair of the Pac-12 Student Health Board of Directors.

Dr. Hank Pelto is in charge of the new musculoskeletal curriculum for the medical school and Dr. Ashwin Rao is spearheading a total revamping and expansion of the musculoskeletal ultrasound curriculum for the fellowship with plans to introduce this skill to the residents.

Research

WWAMI RHRC researchers Holly Andrilla, Cynthia Coulthard, and Eric Larson have been featured in Huffington Post, and Healio for their work on the barriers physicians face in incorporating buprenorphine treatment into their practices to treat opioid use disorder, recently published in the Annals of Family Medicine.

Dr. Emily Godfrey received the following awards:

- $50K over 18 months for her Improving efficiency and effective contraceptive counseling in UW primary care and women’s health clinic using a novel anticipatory counseling video for the hormonal IUD, by the UW Patient Safety and Quality Executive Committee.
- Tier II funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to continue their work creating the Cystic Fibrosis Reproductive and Sexual Health Collaborative (CFReSHC).
- (With collaborators from UW, CHS, ITHS, UCSD, UT-Southwestern, National Jewish Health and UIC) funding from the Society of Family Planning to build a pilot contraceptive registry for patients with complex medical conditions.
- Additional funding from Bayer Women’s Health to continue the ACCCUSS study (Anticipatory Counseling on Contraceptive Continuation, Healthcare utilization and satisfaction), a multisite randomized controlled trial comparing an anticipatory counseling video to control video among hormonal IUD users.
Palliative Care

Tracy M. Ng, LASW, Palliative Care Social Worker, UWMC Palliative Care Program Attending Zelda Foster Studies Leadership Fellowship in Palliative and End-of-Life Care.

Tracy Ng, LASW, is one of two bereavement social workers on the UWMC Palliative Care Service. She has been accepted and will attend the Zelda Foster Studies Leadership Fellowship in Palliative and End-of-Life Care at Columbia University in New York starting this fall.

Cindy Beavon, ARNP Teaching Associate in DFM Will be attending the UW Cambia Graduate Certificate Program in Palliative Care

Cindy Beavon, ARNP on the UWMC Palliative Care Service and Teaching Associate in DFM was accepted to the UW Cambia Graduate Certificate Program in Palliative Care matriculating this September. The program was developed by the late Dr. Stuart Farber, and retired Larry Mausch in the DFM and Arndt Doorenbos, PhD, in the UWSON. The program is 9 months long and will give her advanced training in palliative clinical care especially in communication. Her training will be in part supported by the Dr. Stuart Farber and Annalu Farber Endowed Professorship for Palliative Care Education, which is in keeping with his legacy wishes for palliative care education.

Meegan Woleczyn, ARNP Teaching Associate in DFM Honored with Daisy Award for Nursing Excellence at UWMC

The Daisy Award for extraordinary nurses recognizes the super-human work nurses do every day. It was established by the DAISY Foundation a foundation for the elimination of Diseases Attacking the Immune System, in memory of Patrick J. Barnes. Mr. Barnes’ parents established the foundation in Patrick’s memory, because they had experienced firsthand the skills as well as the caring and compassion of many nurses. Each quarter the Award is given to six outstanding RNs at the University of Washington Medical Center. Meegan is dedicated to compassionate care of our patients and families on the UWMC PC service, is an accomplished teacher and valued colleague and role model on the PC team and throughout UWMC.