Translating Big Data Into Even Bigger, Healthier and Safer Outcomes

Public Health Impact Spanning Over 30 Years of Graduate Training and Research

The UF College of Pharmacy department of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy focuses on the evaluation of drugs and related medical technology. This focus includes classic pharmacoepidemiologic and pharmacoeconomic work in areas such as drug safety and comparative effectiveness, economic evaluation of pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical predictive analytics and pharmaceutical health services research, including assessments of pharmaceutical policy, quality and patient safety research. The department possesses a state-of-the-art data center fully qualified for quantitative research involving multiple research databases with personal health information for 260 million lives.

UF Health, the largest fully integrated academic health center in the Southeast with all six health colleges on a single campus, seven hospitals, and numerous specialty practices in North Central Florida allows broad interdisciplinary collaboration. This includes access to a fully integrated multi-institutional electronic health record system research consortium called OneFlorida, which covers approximately nine million lives.

Areas of Specialization

We offer a broad spectrum of opportunities in training and research for students in the following specializations:

- Pharmacoepidemiology and Safety Sciences applies epidemiologic methods and knowledge to the study of uses and effects of drugs in populations after drug approval. Important research areas include post-marketing safety studies, comparative effectiveness studies and predictive models of drug outcomes and use.

- Pharmacoconomics and Outcomes Research measures the cost and consequences of the use of pharmaceutical products and related services in the delivery of health care. It aims to provide decision-makers, providers and patients with information needed to optimally allocate resources. Important research areas include studies that inform managed care, pricing and market access for new drugs.

- Pharmaceutical Health Services Research examines the quality, accessibility and delivery of pharmaceuticals and related services. The program places emphasis on vulnerable populations such as children, elderly, minorities and persons with high-burden diseases and disabilities. Examples of research include the development of quality measures or assessment of determinants of appropriate therapy.
Education and Training
Our graduate program admits students each fall semester. In addition to a broad portfolio of course work and hands-on research experiences, students may have the opportunity to pursue an internship with government organizations, or in the pharmaceutical or health services industry, to allow early exposure to a potential employer. Competitive funding including tuition is available.

Research Faculty and Areas of Interest

Almut Winterstein, R.Ph., Ph.D., FISPE
Professor and Chair
Dr. Winterstein’s research program focuses on the evaluation and prediction of drug safety and effectiveness in real-world populations and on designing ways to improve medication use. Clinical areas of interest include pediatrics and pregnancy, pharmacoepidemiology and treatment and prevention of infectious disease.

Josh Brown, Pharm.D., Ph.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor
Dr. Brown’s research is in the field of comparative effectiveness and safety research focusing on anticoagulants, hematology and cardiology, and in health care policy evaluation.

Karam Diaby, Ph.D., M.Sc.
Assistant Professor
Dr. Diaby’s research interests are in the field of economic evaluation, decision analytic modeling, health technology assessment, or HTA, and priority setting using multi-criteria decision analysis, or MCDA.

Randy Hatton, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS
Clinical Professor
Dr. Hatton’s research interests include evidence-based practice, patient safety and over-the-counter products.

Robert Navarro, Pharm.D.
Clinical Professor
Dr. Navarro’s research interests include real-world drug value assessments, performance-based risk-sharing arrangements with pharmaceutical manufacturers and value-based drug formulary management in various patient populations, as well as benefits and risks of public pharmacoeconomic policy on patient drug access and affordability and outcomes experiences.

Haesuk Park, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Dr. Park’s research program focuses on the evaluation of economic and health outcomes of medication and pharmaceutical care services as well as policy associated with the use of pharmaceuticals.

Rich Segal, Ph.D.
Professor and Graduate Program Director
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Dr. Segal’s research focuses on improving the quality and safety of the medication use process, with a particular emphasis on improving prescribing practices and in creating collaborative practice models to improve medication use by patients.

Yu-Jung “Jenny” Wei, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Dr. Wei’s research programs focus on questions surrounding the effectiveness, safety and quality of medication use in elderly patients with chronic conditions, especially those in nursing home settings.

Hong Xiao, Ph.D.
Professor
Dr. Xiao’s research interests include access to and utilization of pharmaceutical and/or health services and related clinical, economic and humanistic outcomes with a focus on disparities in cancer outcomes.