January 2012

A UW study reveals the first evidence of structural brain changes in diet-induced obesity. (Michael W. Schwartz, professor of medicine, Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition)

A combination of two common drugs, lamotrigine and valproate, is found to be more effective in treating difficult-to-control epilepsy than other anti-epileptic regimens. (Nicholas Poolos, associate professor of neurology)

Paul Lange, professor and chair emeritus of the Department of Urology, receives the Society of Urologic Oncology’s highest award, the Huggins Medal, for furthering the science of urologic oncology and advancing patient care for individuals with genitourinary cancer.

Persons who develop dementia are found to have a significantly higher rate of hospital admissions for all causes and admissions for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions for which proactive care may have prevented hospitalizations. (Elizabeth A. Phelan, associate professor of medicine, Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine)

David Eyre, professor of orthopedics and sports medicine, receives the Orthopaedic Research Society 2012 Arthur Steindler Award for advancing the understanding of musculoskeletal systems, disease and injury.

David Park, associate professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, receives the Outstanding Educator Award from the American Thoracic Society.

Nicholas Vedder, professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery, is appointed to the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

Seven identical robots created and built at the UW are flown to campuses across the country where they will provide the first common research platform to develop the future of surgical robotics. The original Raven robot is moved to UW Medicine’s Institute for Simulation and Interprofessional Studies for use by UW medical researchers.
February 2012

The UW School of Medicine implements a new strategic diversity plan. The Office of Multicultural Affairs transitions to the new Center for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI). David Acosta is appointed Chief Diversity Officer.

The risk for type 2 diabetes is found to increase in men and women who eat a diet high in processed meats. (Amanda Mae Fretts, epidemiologist and senior research fellow in the Department of Medicine)

The Food and Drug Administration approves the first drug that treats the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis. Approval follows the results of a clinical trial led by Bonnie Ramsey, professor of pediatrics and director for Clinical and Translational Research at Seattle Children’s Research Institute.

Monica Vavilala, professor of anesthesiology & pain medicine, calls for more international collaboration in traumatic brain injury research at the Indian Society of Neuroanesthesia and Critical Care Conference in Bhopal, India.

Francis Spain, Idaho physician who was in the WWAMI Idaho entering class of 1972, receives the 2012 Idaho WWAMI Alumni Award for Excellence in Mentoring, Teaching, Leadership and Patient Care.

March 2012

The UW Medicine Salutes Harborview benefit event raises $1.6 million for the Mission of Caring.

Christopher Marshall, 51, becomes the first Total Artificial Heart patient in the Pacific Northwest with the procedure occurring at UW Medical Center.

Significant differences in brain development are found in high-risk infants who later develop autism, compared with high-risk infants who do not develop autism. (Stephen Dager, professor of radiology)

Researchers identify new clues about how common genetic change in a gene called PTPN22 may pre-dispose children and adults to develop autoimmune conditions, including type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus. (David Rawlings, professor of pediatrics and director of the Center for Immunity and Immunotherapies at Seattle Children’s Research Institute)

Metropolitan King County Council recognizes Valley Medical Center for excellence in healthcare, financial management, and work environment.
Margaret Hall, chief of cardiology and medical director of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at Northwest Hospital & Medical Center receives *Seattle Business* magazine’s Outstanding Health Care Professional Award; Shannon Fitzgerald, chief for advanced practice services at Seattle Children’s, receives the Outstanding Health Care Professional Silver Award; Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and Pioneer Square Clinic receive Outstanding Community Outreach silver awards; and Johnese Spisso, UW Medicine chief health system officer and UW vice president for medical affairs, receives the Outstanding Health Care Executive Silver Award.

The Northwest Region of the Society of General Internal Medicine honors two UW assistant professors of medicine: Jennifer Best(81,413),(649,566) receives the society’s Clinician-Educator of the Year Award and Ellen Schur receives the Clinician-Investigator of the Year Award.

WWAMI Montana medical student KayCee Gardner becomes the first TRUST (Targeted Rural/Underserved Track) scholar to sign a residency training contract prior to the residency match with the Montana Family Medicine Residency in Billings.

Fred Rivara, professor of pediatrics and editor-in-chief of the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, calls for more vigilance in recognizing and monitoring children who have even mild sports-related concussions in an editorial in the March 5 issue of the journal.

A team of researchers led by Sheela Sathyanarayana, UW assistant professor of pediatrics, writes exposure risks guidelines and reduction tips for environmental toxins.

The UW Neighborhood Northgate Clinic, UW Medicine’s newest primary-care clinic, opens.

The ORCA Computerized Practitioner Order Entry (CPOE) is launched at UW Medical Center. (Harborview CPOE launch is completed in September.)

*U.S. News & World Report* ranks the UW School of Medicine the No. 1 primary care medical school in the nation for the 19th consecutive year. The School’s programs in rural health and family medicine are ranked No. 1 in the nation for the 21st consecutive year.

More than 450 UW health professions students from the schools of medicine, nursing and pharmacy participate in an interprofessional training program about communication and error disclosure.

The Washington State University-Spokane Riverpoint campus hosts the second Graduate Medical Education Summit in Spokane sponsored by the WWAMI program. The summit explores the funding challenges of graduate medical education in a full day of meetings and presentations.

The UW School of Medicine and Washington State University announce an agreement to pilot a first-time-ever WWAMI second-year medical training program at the WSU Spokane Riverpoint campus.

Seattle researchers report that after a mouse embryo starts to form, some of its stem cells undergo a dramatic metabolic shift to the next stage of development. These stem cells begin
using and producing energylke cancer cells. (Hannele Ruohola-Baker, professor of biochemistry)

UW research finds that pediatricians who show an unconscious preference for European-Americans tend to prescribe better pain management for white patients than they do for African-American patients. (Janice Sabin, assistant research professor of biomedical informatics and medical education)

Alex Cahana, professor of anesthesiology & pain medicine, testifies at a U.S. Senate hearing on the national epidemic of prescription-painkiller abuse.

April 2012

UW establishes the Institute for Protein Design. David Baker, professor of biochemistry and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, is appointed director.

UW researchers find a genetic basis of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in children who have no family history of ASD or related impairments and why autism varies in symptoms and severity. (Brian O’Roak, senior fellow, Department of Genome Sciences; Jay Shendure, associate professor of genome sciences; and Evan Eichler, professor of genome sciences)

In Memoriam: Nelson Fausto, UW professor of pathology and former Department of Pathology chair, an acclaimed researcher in the field of liver growth and disease.

Richard Utarnachitt, UW acting assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Emergency Medicine, is appointed medical director of Airlift Northwest.

Mark Wicks is named career advisor for UW School of Medicine students and residents; Wicks served previously as a counselor in the medical school.

Lawrence Corey, professor of medicine in the Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and professor of laboratory medicine, and president and director of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, is elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) reports that nationwide girls born in 2009 will live shorter lives than their mothers in hundreds of U.S. counties.

UW researchers collaborate with Blood Purification Technologies Inc. of Beverly Hills, Calif., to conduct the first clinical trial of the wearable artificial kidney. (Larry Kessler, professor and chair of the Department of Health Services in the School of Public Health, and Jonathan Himmelfarb, professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology and director of the Kidney Research Institute.)

Lori Mitchell is appointed chief financial officer for UW Medicine and UW vice president for medical affairs. Mitchell previously served as chief financial officer at Harborview Medical Center.
Phillip Lund is named chief of staff for Valley Medical Center.

Kelly Edwards, associate professor of bioethics and humanities, receives the 2012 Science Education Advocate Award presented by the Washington State Leadership and Assistance Education Reform (LASER).

The UW is one of five consortia of colleges and universities to receive National Institutes of Health funding to foster the next generation of global health scientists. The UW is the leader of a consortium that includes the University of Hawaii, University of Michigan and University of Minnesota; the consortium will receive about $4 million over five years to support the training activities of fellows. (Joseph Zunt, associate professor in global health and principal investigator for the UW-led consortium)

May 2012

UW Medicine creates the Palliative Care Center of Excellence to integrate research, clinical and educational activities related to palliative care. J. Randall Curtis, professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and Anthony Back, professor of medicine in the Division of Medical Oncology, are co-directors of the new center.

William Foege, alumnus of the UW School of Medicine and affiliate professor of epidemiology, receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. Foege led the successful campaign to eradicate smallpox in the 1970s.

Evan Eichler, professor of genome sciences and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, is elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

A Hall Health Primary Care Clinic renovation and expansion includes 51 exam rooms and an additional 12 counseling rooms dedicated to mental healthcare. (David C. Dugdale, Hall Health director and UW professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine)

Valley Medical Center is named U.S. Provider of the Year for innovation and reducing healthcare costs by Global Healthcare Exchange (GHX), an international healthcare technology and services company.

Carlos Pellegrini, the Henry N. Harkins Professor and chair of the UW Department of Surgery, receives the 2012 Andrew L. Warshaw Master Educator Award from the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract Foundation.

The American Society of Transplant Surgeons names UW medical resident Jennifer Kasten a Scientist Scholar for her project “Transplantation of Embryonic Stem Cell-Derived Hepatocytes to Treat Single Enzyme Liver Defects.”

Insulin nasal spray therapy shows memory improvement in Alzheimer's patients. (Suzanne Craft, UW professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.)
Mary-Claire King, professor of genome sciences and medicine, and Anne McTiernan, research professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health, receive Susan G. Komen research awards.

UW Medicine’s Hall Health Primary Care Center, Harborview Medical Center and Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, receive the Qualis Health Award of Excellence in Healthcare Quality.

Al Shifa Resource Center, a UW student-run organization that provides culturally sensitive health and social services to underserved communities in Seattle, marks its sixth year of service.

Bioengineers discover a low-cost system to shrink diagnostic technology that would require little energy and avoid possible contamination by diluting or electrifying the samples in order to move them. Their findings were published in *Advanced Materials*. (Karl Böhringer, professor of electrical engineering and bioengineering).

Bioengineers develop the first structure to grow small human blood vessels, creating a 3-D test bed that offers a better way to study disease, test drugs and perhaps someday grow human tissues for transplant. (Ying Zheng, research assistant professor of bioengineering)

**June 2012**

More than 300 guests filled the Metropolitan Ballroom of the Sheraton Seattle Hotel June 3rd to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the UW School of Medicine’s WWAMI program. The Seattle celebration was the culmination of WWAMI anniversary events across the participating states throughout the year. Dan Evans, who was Washington state governor when WWAMI began in the early 1970s, spoke about the enduring value of WWAMI.

Other WWAMI 40th Anniversary locations and events included:

Anchorage, AK - September 10, 2011 Legislative Briefing and New Health Science Building
Bozeman, MT - October 7, 2011 White Coat Ceremony
Denver, CO - November 6, 2011 AAMC Reception
Boise, ID - February 27, 2012 Legislative reception
Cheyenne, WY - February 28, 2012 Legislative Dinner
Spokane, WA - March 22, 2012 GME Summit
The School of Medicine celebrates its 63rd medical student graduation.

UW Medicine faculty and staff receive Annual Awards of Excellence during the 42nd Annual Awards of Excellence ceremony. Distinguished Staff awardees include: Billy H. Colburn, psychiatry, based at Harborview Medical Center; Julie Jothen Valley, radiation oncology, based at UW Medical Center; and the Trauma Surgical ICU Quiet Time Group, based at Harborview Medical Center: Holly Broadbent-Horvat, Karin Huster, Patricia A. McElveny, Jodie Prescott and JoAnn Rodger. Alex Cahana, UW professor of anesthesiology & pain medicine, receives the David B. Thorud Leadership Award. Hugh Foy, professor of surgery, is a recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award.

UW Medicine scientists successfully sequence the genome of a baby in the womb without tapping its protective fluid sac. (Jay Shendure, professor of genome sciences, Jacob Kitzman and Matthew Snyder, graduate students in genome sciences).

UW researchers work to understand the experiences of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender couples when one partner is seriously ill. (Ruth Engleberg, UW research associate professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and co-director of the End-of-Life Care Research Program based at Harborview Medical Center)

Ruth Ballweg, director of MEDEX Northwest, receives the American Academy of Physician Assistants' highest honor, the Eugene Stead Award.

Qualis Health honors Hall Health Primary Care Center for reducing the over-prescription of opioids through the use of electronic health record tools. (David C. Dugdale, Hall Health director, and professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine)

In Memoriam: Alvin J. Thomson, emeritus clinical professor of medicine, practiced internal medicine and gastroenterology in Seattle for 40 years and was a mentor to many health professionals who trained at the UW.

Second-year medical student Eriberto Michel receives the American Medical Association Foundation’s 2012 Minority Scholars Award.
The UW AIMS (Advancing Integrated Mental Health Solutions) Center receives funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to integrate mental health and primary healthcare. (Jurgen Unutzer, professor and vice chair in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and director of the Division of Integrated Care and Public Health, leads the AIMS Center).

UW Medical Center is one of 15 clinical sites in the United States and the first in the Pacific Northwest to be certified to use a new medical device, the NovoTTF-100A, to treat adult patients with recurrent glioblastoma. (Maciej Mrugala, associate professor of neurology)

The Interdisciplinary Pain Center at Madigan Army Medical Center receives the Business Examiner Media Group of Tacoma's Community Health Care Champions Military Services Award for efforts to improve the quality of pain care for patients. (Alex Cahana, professor of anesthesiology & pain medicine and chief of the Division of Pain Medicine, and Major General Richard Thomas, commanding general of Western Regional Medical Command.)

Thomas Montine, the Alvord Professor of Neuropathology, is appointed chair of the Department of Pathology, succeeding the late Nelson Fausto.

Lynne Robins, professor of biomedical informatics and medical education and co-director of the Teaching Scholars Program, receives the UW Medicine Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

In Memoriam: John Ensinck, professor emeritus of medicine in the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition.

July 2012

The UW Institute of Translational Health Sciences receives nearly $65 million for the next five years from the National Institutes of Health to continue its groundbreaking work of accelerating the translation of research discoveries into practical applications to improve the health of the public.

Johnese Spisso, UW Medicine chief health system officer and UW vice president for medical affairs, receives the King County Healthcare Coalition’s 2011-2012 Excellence in Leadership Emergency Preparedness & Response Award. Harborview Medical Center, UW Medical Center, Northwest Hospital & Medical Center, and Valley Medical Center receive the organization’s Excellence in Collaboration Award.

UW Medicine inaugurates a new Multiple Sclerosis Center at Northwest Hospital & Medical Center.
Jennie Struijk, director of operations for the School of Medicine’s Objective Clinical Training Examination (OSCE) program, receives the Outstanding Educator Award, the highest honor given by the Association of Standardized Patient Educators.

Darrell A. Owens, clinical assistant professor of geriatrics and palliative medicine and director of the Primary Palliative Care Clinic at Harborview Medical Center, receives the Cambria Foundation Sojourns Award for Washington.

UW researchers will take part in a new federal initiative to engineer three-dimensional chips containing living cells and tissues that imitate the structure and function of the human kidney. (Jonathan Himmelfarb, professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology and director of the Kidney Research Institute.)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves an HIV treatment drug for reducing the risk of acquiring HIV. A UW study played a pivotal role in the FDA approval of the HIV prevention drug. (Connie Celum, professor of global health, and Jared Baeten, associate professor of global health)

*U.S. News & World Report’s 2012 edition of America’s Best Hospitals* ranks UW Medical Center No. 1 and Harborview Medical Center No. 2 out of 35 hospitals in the Seattle metropolitan area and out of more than 100 hospitals in the state. Valley Medical Center is ranked No. 4 in the metro area and No. 7 in the state of Washington.

More than 100 physicians practicing at UW Medicine hospitals are recognized as “Top Docs” by *Seattle Magazine* in its July 2012 issue.

UW Medicine’s Harborview Medical Center, UW Medical Center, and Valley Medical Center are named “Leaders in LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) Healthcare Equality” in the Healthcare Equality Index 2012 report, an annual survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation.

UW is designated an NIH Center in Pain Education. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pain Consortium selects 11 schools to develop pain curricula, and the UW is named the lead site. (David Tauben, clinical associate professor of anesthesiology & pain medicine, and Ardith Doorenbos, associate professor of nursing).

Carol Wallace, professor of pediatrics, receives the 2012 James T. Cassidy Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Rheumatology for excellence in training pediatric rheumatology fellows and for contributions to pediatric rheumatology through research, publications, or legislation.

Members of the UW Mekong Health Collaborative and Hanoi Medical University (HMU) formalize a memorandum of understanding in the areas of cultural, educational and scientific cooperation. The agreement includes joint research activities, faculty and scholar exchanges, and exchange of technical capacity in online learning.
A team of UW Medicine researchers, in collaboration with scientists at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Munich, discovers a chemical that temporarily restores some vision to blind mice. (Russell Van Gelder, professor and Boyd K. Bucey Memorial Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology)

Andrew Luks, associate professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, is named program director of the critical care fellowship. He succeeds Mark Tonelli, professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, who served in the position since 2001.

Isaac Bohannon, assistant professor of otolaryngology head and neck surgery, is named program director of the otolaryngology residency. She succeeds Robert Stanley, professor of otolaryngology/head and neck surgery, who had been program director since 2009.

August 2012

Scott Ramsey, professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and a national leader in healthcare economics, is appointed director of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center’s new Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation. The Institute is the first of its kind among comprehensive cancer centers nationwide that is dedicated to health economics and cancer outcomes research.

Paul Ramsey, CEO of UW Medicine, executive vice president for medical affairs, and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Washington, addresses the “ABCs of Accountable Care” as a guest columnist in the Puget Sound Business Journal.

The Washington State Academy of Sciences announces that 26 of its 36 new members are from the University of Washington. Induction into the academy recognizes distinguished and continuing scientific achievements.

Lauren Hughes, a family medicine resident, and Charlene Wong, a pediatrics resident, are among 27 emerging physician leaders selected as 2013 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars.

A School of Medicine committee chaired by Wylie Burke, professor and chair of the Department of Bioethics and Humanities, releases a vision statement and guiding principles for the medical school’s curriculum renewal.

UW researchers launch a study to determine which of the two most common blood product combinations provide the best outcomes for trauma patients who require massive blood transfusions. (Eileen Bulger, professor of surgery)

Joshua Thaler, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition, receives the 2012 Perkins Coie Award for Discovery to study how cells and neurons of the brain affect energy metabolism.
A public and private partnership between the federal government and the Social Innovation Fund announces funding to support improved depression care in medically underserved rural communities in the WWAMI region. (Jurgen Unutzer, professor and vice chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.)

In Memoriam: Barbara Mitchell, senior vice president of Human Resources & Marketing at Valley Medical Center.

The Center for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jia Tong University in the People’s Republic of China ranks the UW schools of medicine and pharmacy No. 3 in the world in the 2012 Academic Ranking of World Universities by Subject Field.

In Memoriam: Wayne Crill, professor emeritus of physiology and biophysics and of neurology, served as chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics from 1983 until 1999.

Wyoming WWAMI students Stephanie Lyden and Tanner Clark receive the 2012 Wyoming Medical Society Centennial Scholarship Award.

UW researchers discuss missed opportunities to address other health issues at HIV care centers. Proven interventions, including routine deworming among children, could be effectively integrated into HIV care according to their paper, published in *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. (Helen Gerns, lead researcher and PhD student, and Judd Walson, assistant professor of global health).

New research from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) shows that despite increasing awareness of the problem of obesity in the United States, most Americans don’t know whether they are gaining or losing weight. (Catherine Wetmore, former postgraduate fellow at IHME and now a biostatistician at Children’s National Medical Center, and Ali Mokdad, professor of global health)

UW researchers discover that transplanted heart muscle cells, grown from stem cells, electrically couple and beat in sync with the heart’s own muscle. (Michael Laflamme, associate professor of pathology and member of the UW Center for Cardiovascular Biology and the Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine).

UW researchers find that a low dose of the sedative clonazepam alleviates autistic-like behavior in mice with a mutation that causes Dravet syndrome in humans. Dravet syndrome, an infant seizure disorder, usually originates spontaneously from a gene mutation in an affected child not found in either parent. (William Catterall, professor and chair of pharmacology, and Horacio de la Inglesia, associate professor of biology)
September 2012

Christopher Marshall of Wasilla, Alaska, receives a donor heart transplanted in a seven-hour surgery at UW Medical Center. In March, Marshall, 51, became the first Total Artificial Heart patient in the Pacific Northwest to be discharged from a hospital while awaiting a heart transplant.

An international team of researchers makes significant progress toward compiling a comprehensive listing of all the working parts of the human genome. UW is a major contributor to this effort, which is being conducted largely under the auspices of a multi-nation consortium called ENCODE (ENcyclopedia of DNA Elements). The researchers determine that the majority of genetic changes associated with more than 400 common diseases and clinical traits affect the genome’s regulatory circuitry. (John A. Stamatoyannopoulos, associate professor of genome sciences and medicine and director of the UW ENCODE Center)

Yongmin Kim, professor and former chair of the UW Department of Bioengineering, receives UW Medicine’s 2012 Inventor of the Year Award for advancing laboratory research through commercialization and having a major impact on healthcare and the local economy.

Researchers discover molecular and protein signatures that predict rapid onset of liver damage in hepatitis C patients following a liver transplant. (Angela “Angie” Rasmussen and Deborah Diamond, research scientists in the lab of Michael Katze, professor of microbiology).

Health Alliance International, a non-profit affiliated with the UW School of Public Health, launches the first-ever mobile phone project in Timor-Leste to improve health outcomes of expectant mothers and their newborns by sending important health messages by text. (Susan Thompson, clinical instructor of global health and director of Health Alliance International’s Timor-Leste programs)

Abraham Flaxman, assistant professor of global health, is named one of ‘35 Innovators Under 35’ in the annual listing in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s magazine Technology Review. Flaxman works with Stephen Lim, associate professor of global health, at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, to fashion mathematical algorithms and models to mine global health data.

Moira Aitken, professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, receives the Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc. Professional of the Year Award for excellence in research, clinical care and teaching.

Richard Stein, second-year medical student, receives the American Medical Association Foundation’s Arthur N. Wilson, M.D. Scholarship, which supports a graduate of a Southeast Alaska high school who has consistently received academic honors.
Scientists use genetic sequencing to discover that the vaccine used in the RV144 HIV vaccine trial, involving 16,000 men and women in Thailand, offers some protection against certain HIV viruses. (James Mullins, professor of microbiology, medicine and laboratory medicine)

Local researchers receive New Innovator Awards from the National Institutes of Health Common Fund’s High Risk High Reward program. Assistant professors Kim Woodrow (bioengineering) and Elhanan Borenstein (genome sciences), and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center assistant member Martin Prlic are among 81 scientists selected nationwide for their inventive ideas to transform their field of research and improve the health of the public.

Hospitals that continue cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) longer have better survival rates from cardiac arrests, according to a study led by Zachary Goldberger, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology. The findings challenge the assumption that, if a pulse is not restored soon, continuing resuscitation efforts is futile.

The UW Medicine Burn Center based at Harborview Medical Center releases data tracking demographics and outcomes in burn care from 1974 to 2009. (Loren Engrav, former professor of surgery and plastic surgery)

In Memoriam: Warren Guntheroth, professor of pediatrics and a nationally known cardiologist, made many contributions to the field of congenital cardiac disease and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

A UW-led research team discovers a new regulator for heart formation by studying how embryonic stem cells adjust the packaging of their DNA. This approach to finding genetic regulators may provide insight into the development of any tissue in the body, including liver, brain, blood and others. (Charles Murry, professor of pathology, bioengineering and medicine; Randall Moon, professor of pharmacology; John Stamatoyannopoulos, associate professor of genome sciences; and Sharon Paige, fourth-year medical student in the Medical Scientist Training Program who completed her doctoral degree in Murry's lab)

Lorrie Langdale, professor of surgery, is appointed to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Board of Directors; David Lewis, professor and program director of nuclear medicine, is appointed to the ACGME Review Committee for Nuclear Medicine; and Melissa Austin, resident of pathology, is appointed to the ACGME Review Committee for Pathology.

Lisa Anderson, program administrator for the hematology/oncology fellowship program, receives the 2013 ACGME Program Coordinator Excellence Award for excellence in communication and program management, innovation, performance improvement and overall enhancements in the medical education of trainees.

U.S. Rep. Adam Smith recognizes the one-year anniversary of the Valley Medical Center-UW Medicine alliance with a formal proclamation in the U.S. House of Representatives.
Joseph Cushieri, professor of surgery, is appointed program director of the surgical critical care fellowship program based at Harborview Medical Center, effective Sept. 1. He succeeds Ronald V. Maier, professor of surgery, who served as program director of the fellowship since 1987.

The UW’s new Molecular Engineering and Sciences Building opens with a series of kick-off events focused on this emerging area of research. The associated Institute focuses on research applications in medicine and clean energy. (Patrick Stayton, professor of bioengineering).

UW faculty member develops an application that uses frequencies in the breath to determine how much and how fast a person can exhale. (Margaret Rosenfeld, associate professor of pediatrics and pulmonary specialist at Seattle Children’s Hospital.)

Jeffrey Jarvik, professor of radiology and neurosurgery and director of the Comparative Effectiveness, Cost and Outcomes Research Center, is one of seven investigators nationwide to be awarded an NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory project grant. The research will test whether adding epidemiological benchmark information to the routine radiology report decreases unnecessary utilization and improves patient outcome. The Center attained its goal of enrolling 5,000 patients in the Back Pain Outcomes using Longitudinal Data (BOLD) cohort, a $10 million, prospective study funded through ARRA funds by AHRQ.

October 2012

UW Medicine celebrates the completion of the 273,000-square-foot Montlake Tower expansion at UW Medical Center.

UW Health Sciences schools launch the first Common Book Series for health sciences students with *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*, by Anne Fadiman.

The Findlay Wallace Symposium: The Future of Graduate Medical Education honors the life and work of James Findlay Wallace who served as director of the School of Medicine’s Internal Medicine Residency Program for 30 years. Wallace, professor emeritus of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine, was director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program from 1977 to 2007 and led the program to national prominence.

The Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program (R/UOP) in Idaho receives the 2012 American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation's Outstanding Program Award.

Michael Schmitt, postdoctoral fellow, and Jesse Salk, M.D./Ph.D. candidate, working in the laboratory of Lawrence Loeb, professor of pathology and director of Gottstein Memorial Laboratories, propose that reducing the error rate in DNA sequencing and better pinpointing which cells are mutating may lead to early diagnosis of cancer and better treatment plan once
researchers knew which cells were resistant to chemotherapy. (Lawrence Loeb, professor of pathology)

UW Medicine’s Harborview Medical Center and UW Medical Center continue to rise on the University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC) Quality and Accountability Study. In the 2012 UHC rankings, Harborview is ranked No. 23 and UW Medical Center is ranked No. 31 overall in the nation out of 101 academic healthcare facilities.

MEDEX Northwest, the UW School of Medicine’s physician assistant training program, receives nearly $900,000 in federal funding to expand its training program to the University of Washington Tacoma campus. The funding is part of a national initiative to increase educational and employment opportunities for returning military veterans and boost the healthcare workforce in primary care in rural and underserved areas.

Annie Pontrelli, former director of UW Medicine Alumni Relations, is named director of regional programs for UW Medicine Advancement. Sarah Brown Rothschild is named the new director of Alumni Relations.

Carlos Pellegrini, the Henry N. Harkins Professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, becomes president-elect of the American College of Surgeons.

A multicenter randomized study conducted at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System/University of Washington and eight other sites across the United States finds that estrogen/progesterone treatment started soon after menopause is safe and relieves many symptoms and signs that menopausal women face. (George R. Merriam, professor of medicine in the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition, and principal investigator of Kronos Early Estrogen Prevention Study (KEEPS) at the VA/UW site)

The United States Department of Health and Human Services recognizes UW Medicine’s heart, kidney, and liver transplant programs at UW Medical Center as national leaders in their field. The programs received Bronze Level Awards at the Seventh National Learning Congress for the Donation and Transplantation Community of Practice.

Bernadene (Bernie) Dochnahl, UW Medicine/Valley Medical Center Board trustee, is selected as the 2012 Outstanding Citizen of the City of Renton.

UW Medical Center becomes the site of the first implantation of a new subcutaneous implantable cardiac defibrillator (S-ICD) in the Pacific Northwest. Jordan Prutkin, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, implants the S-ICD into a 78-year-old retired Boeing machinist on Oct. 18.

In Memoriam: E. Donnall Thomas, professor emeritus of medicine in the Division of Oncology, pioneer in bone marrow transplantation and a 1990 Nobel Prize recipient.
Three UW faculty members are elected to the Institute of Medicine, one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Chris Elias, clinical professor of global health and president of global development for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Thomas Fleming, professor of biostatistics and statistics; and Andy Stergachis, professor of epidemiology and of global health, are among the 70 new members and 10 foreign associates elected.

Valley Medical Center completes the third and final phase of its transition to the EPIC electronic medical record system.

Two UW Medicine genome sciences graduate students are honored at the 2012 Society of Advancing Hispanics, Chicanos, and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference. Katrina Claw (Navajo), a fifth-year Ph.D. student and Keolu Fox (Hawaiian), a third-year graduate student, are recognized for outstanding research presentations. Recognition is based on scores provided by mentor-judges and the collective recommendations of all judges within each sub-discipline.

Global health researchers are working on inexpensive systems like a home-based pregnancy test that might work for malaria, diabetes or other diseases. A new chemical technique makes medically interesting molecules stick to regular paper — a possible route to building such paper-based diagnostics from paper you could buy at an office-supply store. (Daniel Ratner, assistant professor of bioengineering)

UW research shows that in 2,047 research papers retracted since 1977, misconduct—blatantly falsified data or data manipulation—was the cause in 41 percent of the cases. (Ferric Fang, professor of laboratory medicine and microbiology).

**November 2012**

UW Medicine and the Department of Medicine honor Seymour Klebanoff, professor emeritus of medicine and former head of the Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, for 50 years of exemplary service and outstanding contributions.

The Wyoming WWAMI program, the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Medical Society and other partners from around the state launch “Practice Wyoming,” a physician recruitment website for the state of Wyoming to increase the number of medical practitioners in the state.

Northwest Kidney Centers, the world’s first outpatient dialysis treatment center, marks 50 years of service. The organization has had an enduring and profound influence locally, regionally and worldwide. Besides patient care, Northwest Kidney Centers devotes significant resources to public health education and to research, including strong collaborations with UW Medicine.

UW scientists succeed in removing the extra copy of chromosome 21 in cell cultures derived from a person with Down syndrome, a condition in which the body’s cells contain three copies of
chromosome 21 rather than the usual pair. (Li B. Li, postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Hematology, and David W. Russell and Thalia Papayannopoulou, professors of medicine in the Division of Hematology)

Jay Neitz, professor of ophthalmology, and his colleagues continue building on their 2009 breakthrough in which they restored red-green vision in two colorblind squirrel monkeys by inserting the missing gene into a virus and injecting it into their retinas. Neitz and his colleagues are working on a similar therapy for humans.

Stanley Herring, director of sports, spine and orthopedic health at UW Medicine and clinical professor of rehabilitation medicine, is among more than 150 medical experts to discuss the safety of youth football at the Consensus Conference on Concussion in Sport, a meeting held every four years that is backed by the International Olympic Committee.

William Weppner, acting assistant professor of medicine, receives the 2012 Richard M. Tucker Excellence in Teaching Award. Weppner is on faculty with the UW Boise Internal Medicine Residency and co-director of clinical outcomes at the Boise VAMC Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education.

A finding by UW medical geneticists sheds new light on how facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD) develops and how it might be treated. The disease is usually an inherited genetic disorder yet sometimes appears spontaneously via new mutations in individuals with no family history of the condition. Daniel G. Miller, associate professor of pediatrics in the Division of Genetic Medicine, and collaborators are studying the molecular events leading to symptoms of FSHD with the hope of designing therapies to prevent the emergence of symptoms or reduce their severity.

The National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, awards a five-year research project grant to identify harmonized reconstruction parameters for each currently-produced positron emission tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT) scanner for use in clinical trials. UW is one of the awardees. (Paul E. Kinahan, professor of radiology)

Three UW Medicine hospital employees earn credentials as certified specialists in trauma registry from the American Trauma Society. Elspeth Mann, a trauma specialist at Valley Medical Center; Bobby Dangeo, clinical data specialist in trauma; and Joyce McQuaid, program manager of the Trauma Registry and Trauma Program based at Harborview, are certified as specialists in trauma registry. The three are among only a few who hold the certification in the state of Washington.

Charles Gray, professor of cell biology and neuroscience at Montana State University, receives the 2013 Memory and Cognitive Disorders Award from the McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience for research on the biology of brain diseases. Gray lectures on the nervous system to the Montana WWAMI students.
UW medical students receive accolades in the Curēus poster competition for medical and health sciences students. Second-year UW medical student Jacob Casey receives a gold medal; Jay Gantz, an MD/PhD student in medicine and bioengineering, receives a silver award; Camille Asher, a fourth-year medical student, receives a silver award; and Blake Sampson, a fourth-year medical student, receives a bronze. Curēus, based in Palo Alto, Calif., is an online medical journal for doctors and patients.

Campus Canines, a division of Seattle-based nonprofit Project Canine, sends its first team of therapy dogs to the UW School of Medicine on Nov. 30. A Papillon, a Beagle, two Labrador Retrievers, two Portuguese Water Dogs, two Bull Mastiffs, and two Irish Wolfhounds, accompanied by their owners, delight the medical students for a few hours at the start of finals week.

Brian K. Ross, professor of anesthesiology & pain medicine and executive director of the Institute for Simulation and Interprofessional Studies, receives the 2011 Bruce C. Gilliland Award for Excellence in Teaching of Residents and Fellows.

A study dating the age of more than 1 million single-letter variations in the human DNA code reveals that most of these mutations are of recent origin, evolutionarily speaking. Over 86 percent of the harmful protein-coding mutations of this type arose in humans just during the past 5,000 to 10,000 years. (Joshua Akey, associate professor of genome sciences)

UW researchers find that by following certain rules, scientists can prepare architectural plans for building ideal protein molecules not found in the real world. Based on these computer renditions, previously non-existent proteins can be produced from scratch in the lab. (Nobuyasu Koga and Rie Tatsumi-Koga, a husband-and-wife scientific team in David Baker’s lab at the UW Institute for Protein Design)

UW researchers hypothesize that electrically spun cloth with nanometer-sized fibers shows promise as an inexpensive, versatile platform to simultaneously offer contraception and prevent HIV. New funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will further test the system’s versatility and feasibility. (Kim Woodrow, assistant professor of bioengineering)

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The Lancet publishes The Global Burden of Disease, Injuries, and Risk Factors 2010 Study that was led by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). The project studied 291 diseases and injuries and 67 major risk factors. More than 700 people in 50 countries and 300 institutions were involved. The results reveal substantial shifts over the past 20 years: more young adults than children dying, and there is a rise in noncommunicable diseases, such as obesity and diabetes. This is the first-ever triple issue The Lancet.
The Institute of Medicine hosts a symposium on the Global Burden of Disease at the UW. Christopher Murray, professor of global health, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), and founder of the Global Burden of Disease Study, talks on “Global Burden of Disease: Implications for the United States.”

UW genome scientists help create an integrated map of human genetic variation as part of the 1000 Genomes Projects Consortium. The multi-national, multi-institutional effort is building a widely accessible resource for understanding the contributions of genetics to health and disease. (Deborah Nickerson and Evan Eichler, professors of genome science)

Anthony “Tony” Avellino, UW professor of neurological surgery, and Thomas Lendvay, associate professor of pediatric urology at Seattle Children's Hospital, are the first surgical team in the U.S. to perform an innovative procedure to help restore feeling in the penis to men with spina bifida.

Elizabeth M. Swisher, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and an adjunct professor of medical genetics, receives three grants (totaling about $2.6 million over three years) from the Department of Defense and the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation to investigate clinical applications in order to personalize therapy for women with ovarian cancer.

Thomas Gallagher, professor of medicine and bioethics and humanities, receives the 2012 Medically Induced Trauma Support Services HOPE Award for supporting healing and restoring hope to patients, families, and clinicians affected by adverse medical events.

A clinical instruction residency training program begins in Kenya that gives UW Medicine residents the opportunity to provide care and clinical teaching in a rural, resource-limited setting as part of the Clinical Education Partnership Initiative. Naivasha District Hospital, located in rural Kenya is the setting of the new collaborative effort directed by Global Health Internal Medicine Chief Resident Aliza Monroe-Wise, who began her appointment in July 2012.

Thomas E. Norris, professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, receives the F. Marian Bishop Leadership Award from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine for significantly enhancing the credibility of family medicine by a sustained, long-term commitment to family medicine in academic settings.

Elizabeth Rulon, clinical assistant professor of family medicine, receives the 2012 Department of Family Medicine’s Outstanding Faculty Professionalism Award. Rulon is assistant director of education at the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho and is the family medicine clerkship site director in Boise.

Four UW Medicine researchers are among 702 new fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Breck E. Byers, professor of medicine and genome sciences and former chair of the UW Department of Genetics; Trisha Davis, professor and acting chair of biochemistry; John Stamatoyannopoulos, associate professor of genome sciences; and Elton “Ted” Young, professor of biochemistry and genome sciences.
UW researchers find that mild cooling of the brain after a head injury prevents the later development of epileptic seizures. (Raimondo D’Ambrosio, associate professor of neurological surgery; John Miller, professor of neurology; Nancy Temkin, professor of neurological surgery and biostatistics; and Jeffrey G. Ojemann, professor of neurological surgery)

UW Medicine establishes the UW Medicine Cares Award to formally recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and excellence of those in the UW Medicine community who consistently exemplify the UW Medicine Service Culture Guidelines – professional standards that ensure that anyone who encounters UW Medicine receives the same great care and service throughout the system.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) releases a report showing the more than $587 billion combined economic impact of its member medical schools, teaching hospitals and healthcare systems on the United States’ economy in 2011. UW Medicine is one of the largest members of the AAMC.

A UW team creates the UW Training Xchange to help researchers translate evidence-based information and methods from their labs and clinics into formats designed for wider dissemination and impact on the health of the public. (Paul Ciechanowski, associate professor of psychiatry & behavioral sciences, and Richard Veith, chair and professor of psychiatry & behavioral sciences)

UW Medicine Advancement launches a website that celebrates the accomplishments of physicians, researchers and educators who hold honorary chairs and professorships.

In a study published Dec. 12 in The New England Journal of Medicine, UW researchers find that intracranial pressure monitoring – the standard of care for severe traumatic brain injury – shows no significant difference compared with a treatment based on imaging and clinical examination. (Randall Chesnut, professor of neurological surgery)

UW researchers identify that the plague-causing bacteria Yersinia pestis evades detection and establishes a stronghold without setting off the body’s early alarms. These new discoveries help explain how the stealthy agent of Black Death avoided tripping a self-destruct mechanism inside germ-destroying cells. (Christopher N. LaRock, senior fellow of microbiology and Brad Cookson, professor of microbiology and laboratory medicine)