Health Outcomes Research and Policy

The Health Outcomes Research and Policy Department strives to advance health behavior, health services delivery, and health outcomes through research and teaching related to patients, providers, organizations and policies. The department includes faculty and graduate students who are nationally recognized for their expertise and innovation in healthcare and medication use.

Richard A. Hansen, PhD, RPh
Professor & Department Head

Richard Hansen is Sandra Kent Gilliland and David Louie Gilliland Professor and Head of the Department of Health Outcomes Research and Policy. He holds a bachelors degree in pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin, and a PhD in Social, Administrative, and Clinical Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on helping policymakers, clinicians, and consumers make more informed decisions about medication use. He also is interested in patient safety issues, including medication errors and adverse drug reactions. His work has been funded by numerous organizations, including the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, the National Pharmaceutical Council, and State Medicaid programs participating in the Drug Effectiveness Review Project.

Kimberly Garza, PharmD, MBA, PhD
Assistant Professor

Kimberly Garza received a Doctor of Pharmacy from Auburn University. She completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Erlanger Health System in Tennessee and practiced as a clinical pharmacist before returning to graduate school. She then completed an MBA followed by a PhD in Health Outcomes Research, both at West Virginia University. She also served as a Fellow of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. Dr. Garza’s research involves application of behavioral economic theory to study preventive health behaviors, including healthful diet and physical activity. Specifically, she studies incentive systems that help individuals overcome present-biased preferences in order to engage in and maintain preventive health behaviors. She also serves as a member of the Alabama Obesity Task Force and is active in several national and international professional organizations.

Brent I. Fox, PharmD, PhD
Associate Professor

Originally from Daphne, Alabama, Brent Fox holds Doctor of Pharmacy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees, both from Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy. Prior to earning the PhD, Brent worked in the health-system software development industry. He is the former Director of the Center for Pharmacy Informatics at Shenandoah University’s Dunn School of Pharmacy. Dr. Fox’s scholarly activities focus on pharmacy informatics education and on the optimal use of healthcare information technology to improve medication-related patient outcomes. He is active in several national, professional associations. Dr. Fox has coauthored two informatics books and coauthors two columns in national pharmacy publications.

For More Information about the graduate program: http://www.pharmacy.auburn.edu/pcs/pcs_graduate_degree_program.htm
Jan Kavookjian, MBA, PhD
Associate Professor
Jan Kavookjian joined the Harrison School of Pharmacy in 2006 after four years as faculty at West Virginia University. Her teaching in the PharmD curriculum and graduate programs includes patient communication, with a motivational interviewing emphasis, and marketing health services. Her research areas include behavior sciences and outcomes research in chronic disease management, studying the impact of interventions on patient behaviors (medication adherence, physical activity, healthy eating) and provider behaviors (prescribing, counseling, monitoring). She has written three book chapters, including the 2011 Motivational Interviewing chapter in the ACCP PSAP Book 8, 7th Ed, and has delivered over 100 presentations, posters, or papers on subjects related to motivational interviewing (MI) and patient communication. Dr. Kavookjian is also active nationally, serving on the Research Committee for the American Association of Diabetes Educators, and consistently contributing presentations, MI trainings, and other efforts for APhA, AACP, and others.

Jingjing Qian, PhD
Assistant Professor
Jingjing Qian holds a PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research from University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and a master degree of Epidemiology at University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Qian’s research interests reside in health outcome and pharmacoepidemiology research in mental health with focus on underserved populations. She has rich experience in working with multiple national insurance datasets, administrative claims and patient-reported outcome datasets. The goal of her research is to improve quality of care of mental illness in this vulnerable population as well as reduce associated health care burden for the society.

Salisa C. Westrick, PhD
Associate Professor
Salisa Westrick holds a BS degree in Pharmacy from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, MS in Training and Development from Illinois State University and PhD in Social and Administrative Sciences in Pharmacy from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research interests include: (a) effect of organizational and social factors on innovation adoption of pharmacy-based patient-care services, (b) pharmacists’ roles in public health and primary care, and (c) program evaluation in health services. Her research projects have been funded by American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most of her research has been in the area of pharmacy-based immunization services. She has recently expanded her scholarly work to bridge her research interests to real world problems through several outreach projects.