MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to design and conduct outcomes research studies that assess the value of therapy in the treatment of disease and communicate their results. This is done in support of the academic mission of the University of Utah Health Sciences Center, which is to further education, research and service to improve patient care. Our center contracts with foundations, managed care organizations, government, and the pharmaceutical industry. We are contracted to conduct research in the areas of patient reported outcomes, economic evaluations and education.
FACULTY

Diana I. Brixner, RPh, PhD, FAMCP
Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmacotherapy
Executive Director, Outcomes Research Center
Director of Outcomes, Program in Personalized Health Care

Diana I. Brixner, RPh, PhD, FAMCP, is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacotherapy at the University of Utah College Of Pharmacy in Salt Lake City. She is also Executive Director of the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center, affiliated with the University of Utah Health Sciences Center, where she focuses on the design, conduct, training, and communication of pharmacoeconomic and outcomes research studies to demonstrate the value of pharmaceutical therapy. She is the Director of Outcomes for the Program in Personalized Health Care affiliated with the University of Utah Health Sciences Center, focusing on the tailoring of health care to the individual characteristics of the patient. These characteristics can include environment, social history, health history, family history, genetics, proteomics, and more.

During her career, Dr. Brixner has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of National Cancer Center Networks, Value in Health, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, the American Journal of Managed Care and the Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy, authored 3 book chapters, has 1 issued patent, has been an invited speaker at a variety of professional meetings, and has presented numerous continuing education programs. She served a 2-year term on the Executive Board of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) and is the immediate past president of this association. She has served on the Health Outcomes Committee of the Pharmaceutical Research Manufacturers Association. Diana has received the honor of being named a Fellow of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP), which recognizes sustained excellence in the pharmacy profession, and exceptional contributions, long-term commitment and active participation in the Academy.
Gary Oderda, PharmD, MPH  
Professor  
Director Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center

Dr. Oderda received his PharmD degree from the University of California at San Francisco in 1972 and completed an Internship and Residency in Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California Hospital in 1973. Additional education was received at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health where he received a Master’s in Public Health in 1982. While at the University of Maryland College of Pharmacy, he served as Director of the Maryland Poison Center and as a faculty member. When he left in 1991 he was a Professor, Acting Assistant Dean and a Senior Policy Fellow at the Center for Drugs and Public Policy. After moving to the University of Utah he served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacy. He completed a sabbatical leave in 1999 in the Department of Health Care Management at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation in East Hanover, New Jersey. He currently serves as a Professor and Director of the University of Utah Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center.

Dr. Oderda has worked with Medicaid in a variety of capacities. He has managed contracts with Utah Medicaid for approximately 15 years. These contracts have included preparation of criteria sets for the Utah Medicaid DUR program, operation of the Drug Regimen Review Center (DRRC), and a Medicaid Transformation Grant. In addition, he has served as a consultant to Utah Medicaid and has done a number of studies using Medicaid data. At a national level, Dr. Oderda served as a member of a Technical Advisory Committee to CMS on quality measures in Medicare Part D. Dr. Oderda assists in the interpretation of study results and writing the final report/abstracts/manuscripts.
Joseph Biskupiak, PhD, MBA
Research Professor
Director Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center

Joseph E. Biskupiak, PhD, MBA, is a Research Professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and the Director of the Outcomes Research Center at the College of Pharmacy, University of Utah. Dr. Biskupiak’s research interests include health economics, disease management and the U.S. healthcare system. Dr. Biskupiak is a member of the editorial board for Pharmacy and Therapeutics (a peer-reviewed journal for managed care- and hospital-formulary management). He earned a PhD in medicinal chemistry from the University of Utah, an MBA from Seattle University, and a BS in chemistry from the University of Connecticut.

Prior to joining the University of Utah, Dr. Biskupiak was a Director for Strategyx, a pharmaceutical consulting company located in Somerville, New Jersey. Prior to joining Skila, Dr. Biskupiak was vice president of health services research at Hastings Healthcare Group, Pennington, New Jersey. In addition, he was a research assistant professor conducting health economics research in the Office of Health Policy and Clinical Outcomes at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA. He was also a research scientist and research assistant professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle involved in the development of imaging agents for positron emission tomography (PET) and a research investigator in the new drug discovery group at E. R. Squibb and Sons. Dr. Biskupiak has published widely, particularly in the basic and applied sciences and health services research field. He contributed the chapters “Disease Management Programs” in the textbook The Role of Pharmacoeconomics in Outcomes Management and “Managed Care Models of Disease Management” in Disease Management: A Systems Approach to Improving Patient Outcomes, both 1996 publications of AHA Press. He has also written chapters on health assessment tools and changing patient behavior.
Nancy Nickman, MS, PhD  
Professor

Dr. Nancy Nickman is a Professor of Pharmacotherapy and Presidential Teaching Scholar in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Utah. She received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree from the University of Montana and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota in both Hospital Pharmacy (MS) and Social and Administrative Pharmacy (PhD). She also completed a two year ASHP Residency in Hospital Pharmacy at United and Children's Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota (1982-1984). Nancy served as a tenured professor from 1987-2001, and returned to the faculty as a Professor of Pharmacotherapy in 2004 after owning her own business for five years. In 1995, she was named a University of Utah Presidential Teaching Scholar (award merged in 1997 with the University of Utah Distinguished Teaching Award).

Her teaching and research interests include the human side of medication use and the medical care process. Research expertise includes patient-centered outcomes research to improve provision and quality of patient care based on application of industrial engineering and economic analyses.

Nancy has received the University of Utah College of Pharmacy's Distinguished Teaching Award (1990), an Innovative Teaching Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (1993), the Borchard Service-Learning Faculty Mentor Award (1994) from the Lowell Bennion Community Service Center at the University of Utah, and the Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service-Learning (1996) from Campus Compact. She also served as a Visiting Scholar in the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University (1996-1997), and received the Rufus J. Lyman Award from the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education for the best manuscript published during 1998.
Dr. LaFleur is an Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, College of Pharmacy with the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center. She began the research-track in 2005 and changed to tenure-track in 2009. She received her PharmD degree from the University of Utah, College of Pharmacy in 2003 as well as a Master’s of Science in Public Health from the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in 2005. Joanne has a background in Drug Information and has completed a fellowship in pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research. She has worked extensively with the Utah Department of Health Medicaid drug program implementing a Drug Regimen Review Center, which continues to function under her oversight; the purpose of the program is to review patients with high drug utilization and provide interventions to prescribing clinicians aimed at improving drug therapy and decreasing costs. Joanne has publications in the areas of pharmacoeconomics, Medicaid drug utilization, hospital administration as it pertains to investigational drug services, and patient compliance with medication regimens.

Dr. LaFleur was Principal Investigator on a recent project in which adherence methods were evaluated using lipid-lowering therapy as a case example. She looked for correlations between several methods for calculating adherence ratios, including different methods for calculating the days of medication availability (numerator) and for determining the duration of the observation interval (denominator). She demonstrated that as many as one-third of patients were differently categorized as adherent or non-adherent depending on which method selected. Dr. LaFleur also served as PI on a project to evaluate patient adherence to lipid-lowering therapy by regimen type. Patients on monotherapy versus one- or two-dosage-form combination therapy were categorized as adherent or non-adherent using a threshold of 80% and the odds of being adherent for patients receiving each regimen type was evaluated using logistic regression models.
Carrie McAdam-Marx, RPh, PhD  
Associate Professor

Carrie McAdam-Marx, RPh, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Utah Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC), where she participates in research studies that evaluate the value of pharmaceutical therapy. Prior to joining PORC, Dr. McAdam-Marx spent 13 years in the pharmaceutical industry, most recently in the areas of strategic pricing and managed care sales and marketing. Previously she held roles focused on the development and delivery of disease management and appropriate use of medicines programs for private and public third party payers. Dr. McAdam-Marx research experience has been in the retrospective analysis of large pharmacy/medical claims and medical records databases with a current emphasis in the area of type 2 diabetes and hypertension. Dr. McAdam-Marx holds a PhD in Health Policy from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, a Masters’ degree in Hospital Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota, and a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Kansas.

David Stenehjem, PharmD  
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. David Stenehjem is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. He is also the current Clinical Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics, Salt Lake City, Utah. Prior to joining PORC, he held the position of Research Associate with Myriad Pharmaceuticals in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Stenehjem has professional affiliations with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the Hematology/Oncology
Pharmacy Association, and the Utah Society of Health-System Pharmacists. His clinical practice and research interests include hematology/oncology pharmacy practice, hematology/oncology outcomes research, and specialized drug transport systems. Dr. Stenehjem holds a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology from Saint Cloud State University.

Vanessa Stevens, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Vanessa Stevens received her undergraduate degree in Microbiology and her PhD in epidemiology from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, NY. She also completed an outcomes fellowship at the Center for Health Outcomes, Pharmacoinformatics, and Epidemiology at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Stevens’ research interests include infectious disease epidemiology, pharmacoepidemiologic methods, and the intended and unintended effects of anti-infective use. Professional memberships include the Society for Epidemiologic Research, for which she served as the president of the Student and Postdoc Committee, as well as the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology, the American Society of Microbiology, and the International Society of Anti-Infective Pharmacology. Dr. Stevens has published articles in Clinical Infectious Diseases, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, Pharmacotherapy, Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, and The American Journal of Health-Systems Pharmacy, among others. She has also presented numerous posters, given two podium presentations at international meetings, and was the recipient of a 2011 Young Investigator Award by the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID). She was recently awarded an Infectious Disease Fellowship for the 2012 Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC).
Scott Duvall, PhD  
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Scott L. DuVall is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center and the School of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine Division of Epidemiology. He also holds an Adjunct Assistant Professor appointment in the School of Medicine Department of Radiology. He is the Associate Director of the VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI) at the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System where he is responsible for overseeing the implementation and harmonization of research and analysis tools, health care data sets, and computing environment. He leads the VINCI Services team that supports more than 2,900 research and operations staff performing analysis, feasibility, natural language processing, and chart review. He received his education and graduate training at the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Informatics. Dr. DuVall’s current research focuses on the application of informatics tools and advanced analytic methods to electronic health care data to support health services and pharmacoepidemiology research.

Adam Bress, PharmD, MS  
Research Assistant Professor

Adam Bress, PharmD, MS, is a Research Assistant Professor at the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC) in the Department of Pharmacotherapy. He holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland, and a Masters of Science in Clinical and Translational Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. He performed his residency in pharmacy
practice at Yale-New Haven Hospital and Cardiology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He performed his post-doctoral research fellowship in cardiovascular pharmacogenomics at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

His research aims to understand the complex issues surrounding race, genetic ancestry, and variable drug treatment outcomes. He is interested in the application of causal and predictive models to characterize the genetic and clinical factors contributing to variable drug treatment outcomes, particularly in hypertension, heart failure and anticoagulation in atrial fibrillation. These studies aim to identify factors affecting drug treatment outcomes in clinical practice and provide specific targets for improvement of clinical decision making and patient outcomes.

Brandon Bellows, PharmD, MS
Research Assistant Professor

Brandon Bellows is a Research Assistant Professor in the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC) at the University of Utah. Brandon received his PharmD from the University of Utah in 2010, completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at PORC in 2012, and completed a Master’s of Science in Clinical Investigation program at the University of Utah. He worked for PORC as a Research Associate for three years before accepting a faculty position with the Department of Pharmacotherapy. He shares his expertise with a position at Intermountain Healthcare Select Health. His research experience includes studies in health economics, pharmacoeconomics, and clinical outcomes. He has particular interest in observational research methodology and examining the value of health technologies, especially in chronic diseases. Disease areas of interest include obesity, diabetes, infectious diseases – particularly HIV, and oncology.

Sudhir Unni, PhD, MBA
Research Associate

Sudhir Unni is a Research Associate at the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center at the University of Utah. Prior to joining PORC, he spent two years in Xcenda (contract research organization) and was involved in various health economics and
outcomes research projects for health care companies. Sudhir received his PhD in Pharmacy Administration and MBA in General Business from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Bachelors in Pharmacy from the University of Pune, India. Prior to coming to the US, he worked as a product manager with an Indian pharmaceutical company for five years managing several brands.

**Hillevi Bauer, BPharm**  
Research Associate

Hillevi Bauer joined the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center of the University of Utah 2010 as a pharmacist intern. She received her pharmacist license in the State of Utah in October 2012 and is now a Research Associate. She is involved in multiple projects focusing on cancer research. She graduated in 2008 from the Philipps University, Marburg in Germany with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy.

**Minkyoung Yoo, PhD**  
Research Associate

Minkyoung Yoo is a PORC research associate at the University of Utah. She recently completed her two year fellowship with PORC. Her research interests include analysis of U.S. health care use and health care spending, and economic evaluation of changes in health insurance provisions and public health interventions. Her recent research focuses on the relationship between educational attainment and health care expenditures, the distribution change of out-of-pocket health care spending, and the dynamics of out-of-pocket health care spending among Medicare beneficiaries. She was born in Korea. She received a PhD in Economics from Rutgers University in 2012, a M.A. from Washington University in St. Louis, and a BA from Konkuk University, Korea.
Vijay N. Joish, PhD  
Adjunct Research Faculty

Vijay N. Joish, is an adjunct research faculty at the University of Utah Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC). His research interests are primarily in the area of pharmacoeconomics and pharmacopolitics. He has extensive experience in designing and conducting retrospective claims database studies. He currently holds a full time position in the internal medicine health outcomes department at Sanofi Aventis where he manages health economic activities supporting marketed and pipeline CNS products. Dr. Joish got his doctoral degree from the University of Arizona in the area of pharmaceutical economics and policy. His dissertation work involved developing a diabetes specific risk-adjustment tool. He has a Master's in Pharmacy Administration from Idaho State University and a Bachelor's in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Bombay.

Qayyim Said, PhD  
Adjunct Research Faculty

Dr. Qayyim Said is an Assistant Professor at the Division of Pharmaceutical Evaluation and Policy, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Pharmacotherapy, University of Utah. Prior to this, Dr. Said was a Research Assistant Professor at the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC), University of Utah. His research has focused on studying health and economic outcomes of health care interventions and investigating the impact of market and organizational characteristics on delivery of care. Dr. Said has extensive experience in using large administrative, electronic medical record and survey databases.

While at PORC, he worked as a principal investigator or a co-investigator on projects funded by the University of Utah, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis, and the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Said is currently involved as a co-investigator in several projects at PORC.
**Anke-Peggy Holtorf, PhD, MBA**  
Adjunct Research Faculty

Dr. Anke-Peggy Holtorf is adjunct faculty in the Department of Pharmacotherapy at the University of Utah, College of Pharmacy. In the year 2006 to 2007 she was visiting assistant professor at the University of Utah. In addition to her academic contributions, she participates as investigator in a variety of studies conducted by the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center. Dr. Holtorf obtained her PhD (Dr. rer. nat.) from the University of Marburg (Germany) and her MBA from the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom). Dr. Holtorf is partner of BioBridge Strategies LLC (http://www.bbstrategies.com), an international consultancy firm helping pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies aligning their business strategies to the prospective value their products and services can contribute to the healthcare market. Dr. Holtorf looks back on 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical and chemical industry in research, marketing with global responsibilities. Among others was responsible for the global Disease Management activities and strategy of Novartis Pharma, Inc. Between 2000 and 2004, Dr. Holtorf managed the biotech business unit of a midsized Swiss chemical company and held a seat in the executive committee.

**Kimberly Saverno, PhD, RPh**  
Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Kimberly Saverno is a research assistant professor with the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center. She is also currently employed as a clinical research consultant with Competitive Health Analytics, a subsidiary of Humana.

She holds a doctorate in pharmaceutical economics, policy and outcomes, with a minor in biostatistics from the University of Arizona. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Department of Public Health and Health Technology Assessment at University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology (UMIT) in Hall in Tirol, Austria. The focus of her postdoctoral studies was economic models and international health technology assessment, specifically in the realm of personalized cancer medicine. As a licensed U.S. pharmacist with prior work experience in managed
care, she has a firm understanding of the U.S. health care system and has had direct experience with managed care benefits, formulary decision-making, AMCP dossiers, and pharmaceutical cost containment strategies. She was awarded the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Health Outcomes in 2011 for her scholarship and research.
PORC FELLOWSHIPS

PORC provides a post-doctoral Fellowship in Outcomes Research and Pharmacoeconomics. The Fellowship is designed to provide training and experience at an academic outcomes research center to accomplish the following goals:

- To educate the fellow on outcomes research principles and applications, and their use in evaluating health care products and services;
- To provide experience in designing research studies which examine economic, clinical and humanistic outcomes; and
- To provide the training and experience necessary for the fellow to practice outcomes research in a pharmaceutical company, academic institution, managed care organization or healthcare facility.

Fellowships are generally two years and may include both years at PORC or a year at PORC and one additional year at a sponsoring institution, such as a pharmaceutical company or managed care company. Fellowship funding to date for joint programs has been obtained from Medco Health, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and TAP Pharmaceuticals.

The majority of the Fellowship is spent working on outcomes research and pharmacoeconomics projects. The Fellow will be involved in all phases of the projects including proposal development, hypothesis generation, planning, data collection, data analysis, and generation of reports, presentations, and manuscripts. It is expected that the Fellow will present at least one abstract at a national meeting, such as AMCP, ASHP or ISPOR, and submit at least one manuscript for journal publication from work completed during the first year, and continue to make similar contributions in the second year.

Fellows are expected to participate in all areas of PORC research projects. In the beginning of the year they work under the direct supervision of faculty and second year Fellows. As they progress through the Fellowship they will be expected to demonstrate independence in the development of proposals, implementation of research, presentations and peer reviewed publications.
CURRENT FELLOWS

Scott Nelson, PharmD
Associated Health Postdoctoral Fellow – Medical Informatics

Scott Nelson is a postdoctoral fellow with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs in Salt Lake City. He completed his PharmD from the University of Utah in 2013, and then went on to do a fellowship in biomedical informatics. His research experience includes cost-effectiveness modeling, osteoporosis, survey of pharmacy laws, parenteral nutrition, anticoagulation, and obstetrics. Clinical experience includes critical care, pediatrics, and diabetes. His goal is to transform data into useable information for clinicians, in order to improve patient outcomes, through the use informatics and research.

Amy Sainski, PhD
Research Fellow

Amy Sainski is a PORC research fellow at the University of Utah. She received her PhD in Molecular Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics from Mayo Clinic and a BS from the University of Wisconsin – Parkside in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics. After receiving her PhD, she did an Infectious Disease Research Fellowship at Mayo further examining the molecular mechanisms of HIV induced cell death.

Jordan King, PharmD
Research Fellow

Jordan King received his PharmD from Roseman University in 2014, and then joined PORC as a postdoctoral research fellow directly after. During pharmacy school he worked as an inpatient pharmacy intern at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center and completed a six week clerkship at PORC where he learned cost-effectiveness modeling techniques. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Clinical Investigation at the University of Utah. His research interests include cost-effectiveness, comparative-effectiveness, and decision analysis.
Past Fellowship Recipients

Jaewhan Kim, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Family & Preventive Medicine  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT

Richard E Nelson, PhD  
Visiting Instructor  
Department of Internal Medicine  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT

Junhua Yu, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Social, Behavioral & Admin Sciences  
Touro University-California

Ming Yan, MS  
Data Analyst  
Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Detroit, Michigan

Swetha Raparla, MS  
Research Analyst  
HealthCore, Inc.  
Wilmington, DE

Jason Young, MD, MBA  
Market and Technology Analyst  
Technology Commercialization Office  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT

Brandon Bellows, PharmD  
Research Associate  
University of Utah (PORC)  
Salt Lake City, UT

Karina Raimundo, BS  
Health Economist  
Genentech  
San Francisco, CA

Arati Dahal, PhD  
Health Economics Researcher  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA

Junji Lin, PhD  
HEOR Manager  
Amgen  
Thousand Oaks, CA

Beilei Cai, PhD  
Manager, Health Economics and Outcome Research  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Ridgefield, CT

Tina Willson, PhD

For more information on our Fellowship program, please visit our website at:  
www.pharmacy.utah.edu/pharmacotherapy/fellowships/
PH.D. IN PHARMACOTHERAPY OUTCOMES RESEARCH & HEALTH POLICY

The Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research & Health Policy is offered to qualified and motivated students with interest in pharmacotherapy outcomes research careers based in the pharmaceutical industry, academia, governmental agencies, and the healthcare industry. Students graduate with core competencies in health economics, epidemiology, research design, and statistics. Application of these disciplines to health policy decision-making is the primary program focus along with these principles:

- Provide students with training and education in outcomes evaluation of pharmacotherapy
- Expose and train students to the tools necessary for conducting outcomes research in pharmacotherapy including quantitative and qualitative analysis and study design
- Ensure that students have core competencies in health economics, epidemiology, research design and statistics and understand how these disciplines are applied to health policy decisions
- Create leaders in healthcare resource utilization decision making based upon evidence in research settings.

A Few of the Current PORC PhD Students: Tianze, Yan, Marisa, Kaitlin, Eman, Hillevi (Research Assoc), Mukul
CURRENT PH.D. STUDENTS

Kuan-Ling (Kaitlin) Kuo, BS

Kuan-Ling Kuo is a Graduate assistant at the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC) University of Utah and is currently a PhD student in the Pharmacotherapy department. Her thesis topic is “Patient characteristics and optimal combination pharmacotherapy for diabetic painful neuropathy patients.” She has mainly worked on oncology projects, especially in CML, and HCC, and having experiences in chart review, data analysis, and quality of life surveys. She was a teaching assistant in pharmacy management class, and the chair of student advisory committee in the department of pharmacotherapy. She holds a Bachelor degree in Pharmacy from China Medical University and did her internship in a tertiary hospital in Taiwan. She was a temporary assistant of Regulatory Affair Department of GlaxoSmithKline in Taiwan, responsible for filing documents.

Mukul Singhal, BS

Mukul Singhal, joined PORC in 2011 and is currently working as a graduate research assistant in PORC. He is also a PhD student of the Department of Pharmacotherapy. His research interests are the economic and clinical evaluations of oncology and cardio vascular therapies. He has worked on the economic modeling of the INR measurements and its effect on the risk of ischemic stroke. He is currently serving as president of the International Society for Pharmacoconomics and Outcome Research (ISPOR) student chapter from the University of Utah. In addition, he is elected as chair of meeting planning committee of ISPOR student chapter for the annual ISPOR conference in Montreal, Canada 2014. Mukul received his Bachelors and Diploma in Pharmacy from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Science and Research (Delhi University), Delhi, India respectively. He is a registered Pharmacist and has worked as an intern in pharmaceutical manufacturing unit, Abyss Pharmaceuticals, and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, New Delhi.
Marisa Brailsford Schauerhamer, PharmD

Marisa is in her second year of pursuing a PhD degree in Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research and Health Policy at the University of Utah. She received her PharmD degree at the University of Utah in 2013. Her research interests include, among many others, outcomes related to pharmacist-led interventions.

Tianze Jiao, BS

Tianze is a PhD student and research assistant at Department of Pharmacotherapy, University of Utah. Before joined PORC, he graduated from China Pharmaceutical University with a Bachelor of Science from Pharmacoeconomics in 2011. He has participated in several projects from industry to academic grants focused on different kind of diseases such as down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, and oncology. He is interested in data analysis, modeling especially state-transition model.

Yan Cheng, MS

Yan Cheng is pursuing a PhD degree in pharmacotherapy outcome research & health policy at the University of Utah. She received her M.S. in pharmaceutical sciences (concentration in pharmacy administration) from the University of New Mexico in 2011. She completed her Master thesis project, entitled “Risk factors for length of stay, mortality, and healthcare expenditures of discharged patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease”. Prior to joining the University of Utah, Yan worked as a lecturer at the Soochow University School of Pharmacy, China from 2005 to 2007. Yan’s primary research interests include health outcomes research and pharmacoeconomics.

Eman Biltaji, RPh, MS

Eman Biltaji is a research assistant and a PhD student at PORC. Eman is a registered clinical pharmacist from Jordan, who received her Bachelor Degree in Pharmacy in 2007, two years later, her Master Degree in Clinical Pharmacy from Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). Since then, she worked as a clinical pharmacist at King Abdulla University Hospital, and was a preceptor for PharmD
students at Clinical Pharmacy department, Faculty of Pharmacy (JUST). In addition, she was a lecturer at the same department for 3 years. With her background, Ms. Biltaji’s goal is to combine the clinical knowledge she has with her desire to take a research-oriented career in pharmacoconomics, in order to help improve patient related outcomes.

Rishi Deka, MS

Rishi Deka is pursuing a PhD degree in pharmacotherapy outcomes research & health policy at the University of Utah. He received a B.S. in economics from UC Berkeley in 2010 and an M.S. in applied economics from Oregon State University in 2012. For his Master’s degree, he specialized in both environmental and health economics. Rishi’s primary research interests include health outcomes research and health economics.

Casey Tak, MPH

Casey is a first year PhD student in Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research and Health Policy. He graduated from Westminster College in 2014 with a Master of Public Health degree. Before joining PORC, he worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Pediatric Clinical Trials Office at the University of Utah. His research interests are centered on comparative effectiveness research.

Junjie Ma, MS

Junjie Ma is a PhD candidate in Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center at the University of Utah. Junjie got his MS degree in Pharmacoconomics from China Pharmaceutical University and worked as a research fellow at Peking University China Center for Health Economics Research. His research interests focus on the measurement of quality of life and comparative effectiveness research, especially on cost-effectiveness of bacterial lysates for preventing COPD exacerbation and traditional Chinese medicine for stroke.

For more information on our PhD program, please visit our website at: http://pharmacy.utah.edu/pharmacotherapy/grad/phD.htm
M.S. IN HEALTH SYSTEM PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION

The Master of Science in Health System Pharmacy Administration (HSPA) is designed to train future health-system pharmacy leaders. It is only offered in conjunction with the Health System Pharmacy Administration (HSPA) 2 year residency programs offered at University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics and Intermountain Healthcare.

The MS program provides a curriculum and experience in the administrative sciences so that HPSA students/residents are able to apply administrative principles and methods to every-day management problems. In the curriculum, the first year of the program offers courses specific to health system pharmacy leadership and management. Elective courses are selected in conjunction with the student’s HSPA residency director to complement specific student interests. Each residency program designs experiences to complement the MS curriculum.

CURRENT MASTER OF SCIENCE STUDENTS

Alan Horrocks, PharmD
(IHC)

Laurel Legenza, PharmD
(UHOSP)

Erica Marini, PharmD
(UHOSP)

For more information on our Master of Science program, please visit our website at: http://pharmacy.utah.edu/pharmacotherapy/grad/ms.htm
Xiangyang Ye, MS
Biostatistician III

Xiangyang Ye is a biostatistician in the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC) at the University of Utah’s College of Pharmacy. He holds a Master’s of Science in Statistics from Michigan State University (MSU) and a Master’s of Arts in Education from East China Normal University. He joined PORC in July, 2007. He has provided support for study design and statistical methods, and conducted data analysis for varieties of health outcomes research projects, such cancers, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, COPD, hypertension, dyslipidemia, obesity, osteoporosis, etc.

He has extensive expertise in applying general statistical methods, survival analysis, multilevel analysis, structural equation modeling into outcomes research. He has been using SQL, Java, Python, SAS and R statistical software to manage and analyze data from multiple large scale databases, including commercial electronic medical record databases and insurance claim databases, NHANES, U.S. Census, and other public-accessible database. Prior to joining PORC, Xiangyang was a research analyst with the Department of Epidemiology at MSU, where he conducted survival data analysis on breast cancer projects. Previously, Xiangyang was an engineer and director of the Information Technology Center at a newspaper publishing company in Shanghai, China, where he was responsible for information management and technological support.

Kristin Knippenberg, MFA
Medical Writer

Kristin Knippenberg has been a medical writer for the DeCIPHER epidemiological research group in the VHA for more than 2 years. She has a diverse scientific and technical writing background, having written a variety of documents for fields such as human genomics, obstetrics-gynecology, environmental science, natural resources management, and archaeology. She received bachelor's degrees in music and
English from Hope College in 1996 and a master's in fine arts from Warren Wilson College in 2000.

Steven Whipple, BS, MPrA.
Accountant

Steven is responsible for Project Accounting, Budgeting, and Payroll distribution for the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC), Drug Regimen Review Center (DRRC), and the Department of Pharmacotherapy (DoP). Steven received a Bachelor and Master’s degrees from the University of Utah in Accounting. He has over sixteen years of experience in accounting and financial analysis with private and public industries.

Lucas Buckland, MSc
Grants and Contracts Officer

Lucas Buckland is the Grant and Contract Officer for the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center. Prior to joining PORC, Lucas worked with physicians to identify and develop research grants for the Beaumont Health System Research Institute in Royal Oak, Michigan. His experience in grant and contract spans roles of business development, grant writing, contract negotiation, and program management at the University of Michigan, Macomb Community College, and PAL-Tech. Lucas entered his grant and contract management career in the International Development industry after completing his MSc. Post-baccalaureate studies in Economics and International Development at the University of Bath, UK.

Kiramey Gilleese, BA
Administrative Assistant

Kiramey Gilleese is the Administrative Assistant for the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center (PORC), University of Utah, College of Pharmacy. Kiramey joined the PORC team in June 2011. She supports the PORC faculty and staff with all general office duties and assists the research faculty with document preparation, special projects, and travel. Kiramey received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the
University of Utah. Kiramey was an Administrative Services Manager and Counselor Support for the Army Reserve Education Center at Fort Douglas before joining the PORC staff.
PUBLICATIONS, ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTATIONS

As of March 2014, the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center has generated over 243 abstracts, 279 peer reviewed publications, and 97 presentations that have been presented nationally and internationally within Europe, Latin American, and Asia Pacific countries.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

2014 Published


2013 Published


**2012 Published**


2011 Published


10. **Young JR, McAdam-Marx C.** Treatment of Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus with Insulin Detemir, a Long-Acting Insulin Analog McAdam-Marx, Clinical Medicine Insights: Endocrinology and Diabetes. *Libertas Academica.* 2011 Apr; 3.


### 2010 Published


2009 Published


2008 Published


2007 Published


**2006 Published**


---

**2005 Published**


8. **LaFleur J.** Evaluating the Relationship between treatment and costs—measuring the atom with a yard-stick? *Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy.* 2005 Sep; 11(7):588-589.


**2004 Published**


**2003 Published**


**2002 Published**


**2000 Published**


**BOOKS and CHAPTERS**


**ABSTRACTS and POSTERS**

**2014 Abstracts**


### 2013 Abstracts


### 2012 Abstracts


**2011 Abstracts**

1. **Brixner DI, Mukherjee J, McAdam-Marx C.** Weight loss of 3% or more in a 12-month period is associated with glycaemic control in newly treated type 2 diabetes patients in the usual care setting. *47th EASD Annual Meeting.* Lisbon, Portugal. 2011 Sep. [Poster]


7. **McAdam-Marx C, Oderda GM.** Bootstrapping used to provide robust mean and variance estimates for comparing patients treated Liraglutide to a large comparison cohort. *ISPOR 16th Annual International Meeting.* Baltimore, MD. 2011 May. [Poster]


14. **Young JR, Oderda LH, Asche, CV, Pepper, GA.** Antipsychotic Medications and Risk of Falls Leading to Hip Fracture in Older Adults. *Center on Aging Research Retreat Poster Session.* Salt Lake City, UT. 2011 Feb. [Poster]

15. **Heise B, Asche CV, Oderda LH.** RAISE Elderly: Readiness of Older Adults to Use a Personal Health Record. *Center on Aging Research Retreat Poster Session.* Salt Lake City, UT. 2011 Feb. [Poster]

---

**2010 Abstracts**


4. Asche CV, Kim J, Chakravarti P. Assessment of Association of Increased Heart Rate to Cardiovascular Events Among Healthy Patients. *ISPOR 13th Annual European Congress*. Prague, Czech Republic. 2010 Nov. [Poster]


16. Kim J, Nickman N. Spatial Dependence (Or Cluster) In Total Number Of Prescription Drugs Filled At Retail Pharmacies In US. *ISPOR 15th Annual International Meeting*. Atlanta, GA. 2010 May. [Poster]


2009 Abstracts


2008 Abstracts


5. Shafazand S, Yang Y, Mitsi G, **Brixner DI**. Heart Failure Quality of Care: Views from a Nationwide Administrative Claims Database. *American Heart Association 9th Scientific Quality of Care Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke*. Baltimore, MD. 2008 May. [Poster]


8. **Roper M, Biskupiak J**, Alder S, **Oderda G**. Comparison of Men Age 21 Years and Older with and w/out Erectile Dysfunction on Concomitant Prescription Drug, Comorbid Conditions, Smoking Status and BMI. *ISPOR 13th Annual International Meeting*. Toronto, Canada. 2008 May. [Poster]


2007 Abstracts


24. **Asche CV, Young D, Brixner DI, Phillips A.** Assessment of Physician Prescribing for Primary Care Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in a National Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Research Database. *ACCP Spring Practice and Research Forum*. Memphis, TN. 2007 Apr. [Poster]


### 2006 Abstracts


**2005 Abstracts**


**2004 Abstracts**


2003 Abstracts


### 2002 Abstracts


### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

#### 2014 Presentations


#### 2012 Presentations


9. **Stevens V.** Clostridium difficile Infections in Adult and Pediatric Patients. *Pediatric Infectious Disease Division Meeting, University of Utah.* Salt Lake City, UT. 2012.


12. **Brixner DI.** Decision Modeling, Outcomes Research and Health Technology Assessment: Experiences from my Austrian Sabbatical. *University of Utah, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine Grand Rounds.* Salt Lake City, UT. 2012 May.


15. **Brixner DI.** Pioneering Outcomes in Personalized Medicine at the University of Utah. *University of Utah President's National Advisory Council.* Salt Lake City, UT. 2012 Apr.


17. **Brixner DI.** Pioneering Outcomes in Personalized Medicine at the University of Utah. *University of Utah, Park City Institute.* Park City, UT. 2012 Apr.


19. **Biskupiak J, Ghate S, Brixner DI.** Impact of Generic Warfarin Switching on Outcomes in Afib Patients and the Cost of Bleeding, Renal Outcomes in Afib Patients, Predictors of Adherence in Afib Patients. *Afib presentation to CARMA, University of Utah School of Medicine.* Salt Lake City, UT. 2012 Jan.
2011 Presentations


2. **Brixner D, Biskupiak J.** Application of Real World Databases In the U.S. AGENS meeting (Working Group on the Use of Secondary Data) University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology. Hall in Tirol, Austria. 2011 Jul.


2010 Presentations

1. **Brixner DI** Evaluation of Support Services to Colorectal Cancer Patients in Mexico. ISPOR 13th Annual European Congress. Prague, Czech Republic. 2010 Nov.

2. **Brixner DI** Current and Future Use of Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Data in Decision Making in the USA. ISPOR 13th Annual European Congress. Prague, Czech Republic. 2010 Nov.


4. **Brixner DI** Major Challenges and Opportunities for Managed Care Pharmacy. AMCP 2010 Educational Conference. St. Louis, MO. 2010 Oct. [Symposium]


10. **Brixner DI.** U.S. Primary Care Practice Electronic Medical Record Database: GE Centricity. *ISPOR 15th Annual International Meeting.* Atlanta, GA. 2010 May. [Short Course]


**2009 Presentations**


4. **LaFleur J.** Clinical risk factors for fracture: Applying research to knowledge-engineering for decision support. *University of Utah, Division of Geriatrics and Veterans Affairs Salt Lake City Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) Geriatric Research Conference.* Salt Lake City, UT. 2009 Feb.

**2008 Presentations**


**2007 Presentations**


### 2006 Presentations


5. **Brixner DI** (presenter), **Joish VN, McAdam-Marx C,** Arondekar B, Hoblyuk R. Evaluation of Persistency and Outcomes in Patients on SU Combination Therapy with TZD’s or Metformin. *2nd Annual Health Services Research Conference.* Salt Lake City, UT. 2006 Apr.


2005 Presentations


2004 Presentations


2. **Brixner DI**. Managing the Continuum of Treatment: Modeling the Economic Impact of Treating Diabetes. *Symposium in conjunction with the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy*. 2004 Apr.


2003 Presentations


HOSTED CONFERENCES

1. **First Western Pharmacoeconomics Conference**
   Salt Lake City, UT
   2005

2. **Second Western Pharmacoeconomics Conference**
   Salt Lake City, UT
   2007