

## Regional Health Partnership

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This year, we celebrate the fourth anniversary of our partnership to improve the health and well-being of people in Eastern Washington and across the region.

In that time, the UW School of Medicine has welcomed 240 medical students to study on the Gonzaga campus during their Foundations training. This spring, the first students to complete all four years of medical school on the Gonzaga campus will graduate and join the hundreds of physicians who studied in Spokane and Eastern Washington. Many of these new alumni will become practitioners in Eastern Washington, adding to the ranks of over 500 graduates working in communities throughout the region.

We continue to enhance the highly rated medical education provided to our students, including through [a new center](#) for medical education, health sciences and innovation that will break ground later this year, and through a new opportunity for our medical students to further develop their leadership skills.

We are energized by the progress we've made together, which you can read about in our latest [Report to the Community](#), and which appeared in the February 15 edition of the Spokane Journal of Business. Your support has an impact beyond our universities, creating a strong, lasting foundation for health care that serves communities in our region. Thank you for your commitment to improving the health and well-being of everyone who calls our region home.

Sincerely,



Ana Mari Cauce  
President  
University of Washington



Thayne McCulloh  
President  
Gonzaga University



Dr. Lynch is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy & Infectious Diseases at Harborview Medical Center. He is one of the UW's chief experts on infectious diseases, including COVID-19, the 2019 coronavirus disease, and will discuss what you need to know about this and other emerging viruses.

The lecture will take place Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in the Hemmingson Center Ballroom at Gonzaga University. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. with Q&A to follow.

[Registration for this event opens on March 2, 2020.](#) The event is free and open to everyone.



### **Creating leadership training opportunities for medical students**

Students graduating from medical school are amply equipped to treat patients, diagnose disease, interpret lab data and make high-stakes patient care decisions; but they sometimes feel less confident leading patient care teams or assuming community leadership roles.

[Enter the Leadership Pathway](#), an innovative new option for UW School of Medicine students studying in Spokane. Overseen by Dr. Darryl Potyk, chief of medical education, and Rachelle Strawther, director of leadership training and development at the Gonzaga School of Leadership Studies, it will help medical students be more effective in the team-based environment of modern health care.

Four years in the making, this dynamic collaboration between the UW School of Medicine and Gonzaga University's School of

Leadership Studies was developed to help future physicians more easily step into roles that are often expected of them, by strengthening and honing their leadership skills.



### **Today's students, tomorrow's leaders in rural regional health**

As the next generation of physicians are trained through the UW School of Medicine – Gonzaga University partnership, they gain firsthand experience in rural communities across Eastern Washington.

For third-year medical student Erin Boland, the importance of rural health is personal.

“My father, a trained EMT, delivered me at Ephrata Community Hospital,” Boland says. With a desire to return to her hometown of Ephrata after graduation, she enrolled as a student in the Targeted Rural Underserved Track, a program that prepares medical students for careers in underserved rural communities and small cities.

[Since being assigned to Coulee Medical Center](#), Boland has found that her belief in the value of rural healthcare has only grown.

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### **Recent news articles**

[UW, Gonzaga combine to provide leadership training to Spokane medical students](#) – Spokane Public Radio

- [UW is grateful for Grand Coulee](#) – The Star
- [UWSOM Student Anna May explored reducing the suicide rate among Native Americans during her monthlong stay on the Spokane Indian Reservation](#) – The Message, p. 13

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### Events on the horizon

- March 20: Match Day
- April 14: Next Generation Medicine Lecture on coronavirus and other emerging viruses, Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga University

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