Introducing the Global Medicines Program

The University of Washington Global Medicines Program was launched mid-2010 as an inter-school, inter-departmental initiative. It is supported in part through the Department of Global Health’s competitive process that identified new, signature initiatives and centers. Administratively based in the Department of Global Health, the Program is closely affiliated with the faculty and trainees at the School of Pharmacy. We are intent on attracting and integrating faculty and trainees from additional fields, including public health, medicine, and nursing and on establishing strong affiliations with global stakeholders.

Our goal is to improve the use, safety, practice, cost-effectiveness and value of medicines by generating and disseminating new knowledge about assessing and improving the safe and rational use of medicines in low- and middle-income countries. We also strive to achieve this goal through education and training that will develop the next generation of academics and practitioners in global medicines safety, cost-effectiveness, and value analysis.

While a number of us have active research programs in the evaluation of medicines, until now there has been no institutional focus on the major themes of this proposed Program. My colleague and co-Director Professor Lou Garrison and I look forward to keeping you informed of our progress as we move forward with our ambitious, yet much-needed activities.

Andy Stergachis, PhD, RPh
Professor, Departments of Epidemiology & Global Health
Director, Global Medicines Program

Current Projects
Include

Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems
This USAID-funded program builds capacity within developing countries to effectively and efficiently manage pharmaceutical systems. Our activities with Management Sciences for Health support overall initiatives and the countries of Ethiopia, Namibia, Rwanda and Vietnam.

Pharmacovigilance
We develop methods and conduct active surveillance studies on high-priority medicines, including the safety of new antimalarial drugs (artemisinin-combination therapies) used during pregnancy in Sub-Saharan Africa and the adverse events associated with antiretroviral drugs, including risk factors for zidovudine-associated anemia in Namibia.

Global Medicines Training
Advanced training is provided in global medicines research and policy, including

www.globalmedicines.org
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Pharmacoeconomics and drug safety training in Namibia, 2009