Fact sheet

College of Pharmacy consolidation in Spokane
August 2010

Why are we consolidating in Spokane?
Expands experiential education opportunities for students; so students enrolled in the first three years of the program can be together on the same campus; so students do not have to relocate in the middle of the program; so all College of Pharmacy faculty can be together; the collection of other health sciences faculty and students in Spokane present opportunities for innovative and multidisciplinary health care education and collaborative research.

How soon will we be there?
Don’t know for sure; absolute earliest our PharmD program could start there is fall 2014. The earliest the building could be occupied is Dec. 2013, and that depends on whether construction goes according to plan.

How many students and employees do we have in Pullman?
About 200 students, approximately 45 faculty and staff.

Will anyone remain in Pullman?
Pullman will continue to be an important experiential training site for our students because of the support of our alumni and friends there, but we do not anticipate having any faculty or staff remain on the Pullman campus after our consolidation in Spokane.

Will current employees receive assistance relocating?
This is one of the many details yet to be worked out. There are University and state policies and guidelines that we need to consult before we can begin to answer this.

How many students total in our program?
376 students in the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program, plus about 10 students working on a Ph.D in pharmaceutical sciences. We also have other programs already in Spokane: Nutrition and Exercise Physiology (about 30 undergraduate and 15 graduate); Health Policy and Administration.

How many years do the pharmacy students go to school?
4 years in professional school, which is the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program, but they are required to complete approximately 3 years of prerequisite courses before they can be admitted to the professional pharmacy program. The majority of the students accepted into the program today already have bachelor’s degrees, and many of them got their degrees at WSU Pullman.
Are they pharmacists upon graduation?
Once they successfully pass a licensure examination recognized by the state in which they plan to practice they are then licensed pharmacists.

What is the status of the building being planned for the College of Pharmacy in Spokane?
The Biomedical/Health Sciences Building Phase I is in the design phase. Money for design was allocated by the Washington Legislature in 2009 and again in 2010. Community support for expanding medical education in Spokane led to the 2010 request for additional design funds to plan a larger building. The building will be constructed in phases.

Will we share the building?
Yes, as is the case of all academic health science centers, space is very much a shared resource in the interests of interprofessional education. We are teaching a team approach to patient care. The building will be constructed in three phases, and we will share the first phase with the medical education program, known as WWAMI. Started in 1970 and coordinated by the UW School of Medicine, WWAMI is a regional medical education program that trains medical students from five states: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. WSU is a founding WWAMI partner with cohorts in Pullman and Spokane (added in 2008).

What factors can affect the timing of the project at this point?
If there is no money for construction, that would delay but not derail the project. This building is the University’s top construction priority. The University administration has strongly and repeatedly supported this project. Centering the health sciences in Spokane is part of the University’s strategic plan.

What are potential concerns about the consolidation?
The Pullman campus is remembered fondly by many of our alumni who worry that other Cougar pharmacists will never have the same experiences they did. However, many of the pharmacy students have undergraduate experiences on the Pullman campus before being admitted to the professional school.

How long has the College of Pharmacy been in Spokane?
It was 40 years ago – in 1970 under Dean Allen I. White – that the College of Pharmacy ventured to Spokane and developed partnerships with the hospitals for experiential education for our students. A year later, in 1971, we assigned a faculty member to work in Spokane. Gradually, most of our clinical faculty chose to locate in Spokane. Many of them are part-time practitioners and the pharmacy practice opportunities in Spokane are much greater than in Pullman. Then, in
November of 2001, WSU opened the Health Sciences Building on the Riverpoint campus and our clinical faculty moved there. They wanted to be closer to the third-year students because it is at that point in the program that the clinical faculty have a much greater role in student education than our basic science faculty, who are located in Pullman. We moved the third year to Spokane, starting in the fall of 2002 (class of 2004). At that time, we had no plans to move the rest of the College to Spokane, but it was not long before we recognized the advantages of doing so.

Our pharmacy faculty and staff are all a part of our Department of Pharmacotherapy in Spokane. Does the College have any other programs at WSU Spokane?  
The Program in Nutrition and Exercise Physiology and the Department of Health Policy and Administration are both academic units within the College of Pharmacy. They probably will not be affected by the consolidation, except to benefit from the move of central pharmacy administration to Spokane and to enjoy increased interactions with pharmacy faculty and students.

What is the vision for the health sciences at WSU Spokane?  
Pres. Floyd has said WSU Spokane serves as the headquarters for expansion of WSU’s programs in the health professions/health sciences. Based in a regional medical center, the campus offers unique advantages for growth of translational research, clinical education and engagement in partnership with other higher education institutions, hospitals, clinics, practitioners, and biomedical businesses. An economic impact study of the health sciences at the Riverpoint Campus and associated healthcare, research, business spin-offs, and savings in the cost of health care was conducted spring 2010 by Tripp-Umbach, the national leader in such evaluations. They call the Riverpoint Campus “America’s Next Great Academic Health Science Center” and project over $2.1 billion in annual economic impact at full build-out.
What health sciences programs are currently located at WSU Spokane?

- BA Communication Disorders: EWU
- BS Dental Hygiene: EWU
- BS Exercise Physiology and Metabolism: WSU
- BA Health Services Administration: EWU
- BS Nursing: WSU, EWU, Whitworth University
- BA Speech and Hearing Sciences: WSU
- MS Communication Disorders: EWU
- MS Exercise Science: WSU
- Master of Health Policy and Administration (MHPA): WSU
- Master of Nursing (MN): WSU
- Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT): EWU
- Master of Social Work (MSW): EWU
- MS Applied Psychology-Mental Health Counseling Emphasis: EWU
- MA Speech and Hearing Sciences: WSU
- Graduate Certificate in Health Service Administration: EWU
- PhD Nursing: WSU
- Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD): WSU
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT): EWU
- Medical education: WWAMI (Washington Wyoming Alaska Montana Idaho) Medical Education: WSU in collaboration with University of Washington School of Medicine
- Dental education: RIDE (Regional Initiatives in Dental Education): EWU in collaboration with University of Washington School of Dentistry
- Alcohol/Drug Counseling and Prevention Minor: EWU

1 Upper-division BS nursing students in Spokane from EWU, WSU, and Whitworth University study together in an intercollegiate program and receive joint degrees from their home institution and from WSU, which operates the program.

2 Upper-division BA Speech & Hearing Sciences will consolidate from Pullman to Spokane fall 2011. Currently students have the option to choose Spokane.