2012 New Faculty & Promotions

New Faculty

**Dr. Rafael Alfonso, Research Assistant Professor**

Dr. Rafael Alfonso graduated from Medical School from Universidad del Rosario in Colombia, his native country. He also holds a Master in Sciences in Pharmacoepidemiology from the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona in Spain and a PhD from the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program (PORPP) at the University of Washington (UW). He is currently working as the Scientific Director of the Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE) at the School of Medicine in UW in Seattle.

Prior to joining the UW, Dr. Alfonso spent close to ten years developing several projects in Latin America in clinical research, patient reported outcomes, and pharmacoepidemiology while working in medical departments of pharmaceutical companies. In the last few years, his research interests have been focused on three main areas: 1) Development of economic and disease models in chronic conditions such as diabetes, obesity, rheumatoid arthritis, and endocrine tumors; 2) Comparative Effectiveness Research, particularly focused on surgical interventions and new methods to provide indirect comparison analysis of different interventions for specific conditions; and 3) Health Policies, specifically involving the assessment of biologics and biosimilars and the policy implications of the regulatory status in Latin America.

Dr. Alfonso has been appointed as Advisor for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-Bio PANDRH working group-2010) and has been invited to work on projects to advise governments, particularly in middle income countries, and private insurers in the development and improvement of Health Technology Assessment.

Dr. Alfonso is an active member of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), was the first President of the ISPOR Chapter of Colombia, and Co-Chair of the first Latin American Conference in Cartagena in 2007. Currently, he is Chair of the Advisory Board for the Latin American Consortium (2012-2014) and also the Chair of the ISPOR Distance Learning & On-site Training Committee (2010-2012). Additionally, he is the Founder, Chairman, and Scientific Director of RANDOM Foundation, a non-profit organization in Colombia dedicated to promote and improve Clinical and Outcomes Research in Latin America.

**Dr. Alessandro Fichera, Professor**

Dr. Alessandro Fichera is a nationally-renowned, board-certified colorectal surgeon specializing in the latest surgical techniques and research. He spent the last 10 years at University of Chicago Medical Center, where he has been the Program Director for the Colon and Rectal Surgery Residency Training Program since 2008. Dr. Fichera will lead the UW Medicine initiative to further develop and expand the Colorectal Surgery Program.

Dr. Fichera received his Doctorate with academic honors from the Catholic University of Rome, Italy and completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the 2nd University of Rome and the University of Chicago, followed by fellowship training in colorectal surgery at Mt. Sinai in New York. In addition to his surgical expertise in all types of colorectal disorders, Dr. Fichera has a strong interest in inflammatory bowel disease and pelvic floor disorders. Dr. Fichera’s research interests focus on inflammatory bowel disease, minimally invasive and robotic surgery, and the prevention and treatment of colorectal cancers through the management of a wide variety of digestive diseases.

Dr. Fichera’s long-term goals include the development of multidisciplinary programs for Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Rectal Cancer and Pelvic Floor Disorders. With the expansion of these key programs, he looks forward to the development of an ACGME-accredited Fellowship Program.
Promotions

Jeffrey Friedrich, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Adam Goldin, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Lisa McIntyre, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

D. Michael McMullan, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Nahush Mokadam, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

James Park, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Hakim Said, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Thomas Varghese, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor