Dr. Meghan Flanagan was selected to be recognized as a Patient Safety Hero. A Patient Safety Hero is one whose actions “go above and beyond one’s job.” This recognition is part of the UW Medical Center’s observance of Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 8–14, 2015).

Dr. Flanagan was nominated by fellow General Surgery resident Katherine Flynn-O’Brien, MD. Dr. O’Brien wrote, “Despite being a busy surgical resident, Meghan has gone above and beyond to promote patient safety. She has been a member and leader of the Housestaff Quality and Safety Committee for two years. She has pioneered projects critical to patient safety, including the Patient Safety Innovations Project (PSIP) during the 2013–2014 academic year, which created and implemented an electronic and automatic ORCA Problem List Manager tool. This tool helps providers maintain an updated and comprehensive problem list for their patients, which improves patient safety and handoff communication. Meghan was instrumental to the PSIP’s success; this tool is functioning for all of UWMC today. Additionally, Meghan is working hard to implement a standardized handoff tool in the post-operative care unit (PACU) to facilitate effective and efficient communication between care providers in the post-operative setting to minimize omission of information errors. Similar tools have been shown to reduce adverse patient events around the nation. Meghan is an advocate, leader, and (by far) one of the strongest resident voices in patient safety. Her work goes beyond the effect of one patient, touching hundreds already (through PSIP) and hundreds more (through the PACU handoff checklist). She is utmost deserving of a Patient Safety Hero Award.”

“Global oncology is an emerging focus in global health. A core question is how cancer early detection, diagnosis and treatment can be best adapted within existing healthcare systems with limited resources, particularly in low and middle income countries (LMICs).” This recognition is part of the UW Medical Center’s observance of Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 8–14, 2015).

BHGI was recently acknowledged in a high level global publication. The Council on Foreign Relations invited an independent task force to address the rising crisis of non-communicable diseases in LMICs. The Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI), directed by Dr. Ben Anderson, Professor in the Department of Surgery and based at Fred Hutchinson Research Center, developed an evidence-based analytic approach called “resource-stratification,” in which cancer care systems and tools are prioritized and sequenced to provide guidance on how functional cancer management systems can be created in LMICs.

“The Task Force calls on U.S. leadership to help mobilize support for development of resource-level-appropriate guidelines for the management of treatable and curable cancers. Breast cancer provides a good model. With the support of the Susan G. Komen Foundation and NCI, the Breast Health Global Initiative was formed and has since produced a comprehensive set of resource-specific, stage-specific guidelines for breast cancer management (Anderson, 2008). These guidelines provide the basis for prioritizing scarce local government resources and the blueprint for future investments. Similar guidelines are needed for leukemia and other treatable and curable cancers.”