



Physicians Treating People...  
Not Just Symptoms

# The Washington D.O.

This is a bi-weekly blog to keep you informed of issues and events pertaining to the osteopathic profession in Washington. We invite you to submit topics or articles of interest to your colleagues for consideration. Submissions may be emailed to [jperlmutter@woma.org](mailto:jperlmutter@woma.org).

## Executive Director's Message

WOMA's phone number is changing.

As of September 1, the new phone number will be **425.677.3930**

The West Seattle Office will be closing at the same time as I move into a home office. Our mailing address will stay the same: P.O. Box 16486 Seattle, Washington 98116-0486. I want to thank all the board members, medical students and staff who helped us move the office.

Yes, our members are intelligent and strong! Sorting through over 40 to 100-year-old documents, pictures and history provided a valuable perspective of the resiliency of our association. We are going through a similar process of sorting through the work of the organization.

There is still time to register for our Fall Seminar, September 16, Taking the Pain out of Pain Management at [WOMA.org](http://WOMA.org). In addition to nationally recognized speakers, **we received approval for AAFP credit.**

We are honored that PNWU is hosting a reception for us on September 15 (see flyer below). Come support WOMA, get practical CME, enjoy a lovely reception and visit PNWU

Jodi Perlmutter

# Reception for WOMA CME

(Washington Osteopathic Medical Association Continuing Medical Education)



The Washington Osteopathic Medical Association would like to invite you to a reception being held at Butler-Haney Hall on Friday, September 15, from 6-8 pm the night before the CME event. The night will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine from local breweries and wineries, an art show by a local Histology artist, and connection with osteopathic physicians across the Pacific Northwest.

Come join us and enjoy an evening of fine dining, beverages, and visiting with world-class speakers from across the Pacific Northwest.

September 2017

**15**

For more information, please contact Dean O'Driscoll at [dodriscoll@pnwu.edu](mailto:dodriscoll@pnwu.edu) or by phone at 509.249.7861.

Follow Us @PNWUhealth



## Registration is still available for the 2017 WOMA Fall Seminar!

As well as up to 8 1-A AOA credits, we have also been reviewed and acceptable for up to 7.5 prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians

Please join us Saturday September 16th at the University Conference Center at PNWU in Yakima, WA for "Taking the Pain out of Pain Management". If you are unable to make it to Yakima, we also now have LiveStream registration available!

Click the links below to take you to the registration that works best for you!

[Download Brochure](#)

Register Online

LiveStream Registration

## Congratulations Ella Kuchmiy, OMSIII, WOMA Recipient of the Northwest Osteopathic Foundation Scholarship!



### Ella Kuchmiy, Washington State, PNWU, WOMA Scholarship

Ella Kuchmiy calls Washington State her home. She is a student at [PNWU-COM](#), and is the 2017-2018 recipient of the WOMA Scholarship.

Ella's family immigrated here from the Soviet Union. She is fluent in 3 languages; Ukrainian, Russian, and English as her third language. Prior to matriculating at PNWU, she had the opportunity to volunteer at HealthPoint Community Health Centers in King County for multiple years serving underserved populations. She states, *"this opened my eyes to the need of healthcare in the local community"*. She also volunteered at mobile medical clinics in the Ukraine during a two month stay. During this time, she *"met people who had never seen a physician in their life"*. She has seen the need, and hopes to fill it as a Physician.

Ella has also participated in activities within her church, which she hopes to continue. She taught Sunday School, Teen School, and was part of the choir. She believes *"these activities allowed me to connect with people in a different way and were a way for me to refocus and reset. I am also the first in my church community to attend medical school and hope to serve as a motivator for other Slavic-immigrant children to pursue their educational dreams"*.

Ella came highly recommended for this scholarship. One of her recommendation letters states, *"Few have shined in leadership as Ella has. She has been a leader, teacher, and servant. In all of her activities, she has contributed to the maximum capacity. She is reliable, hard working, and caring. No matter where she goes, she is a natural leader that will impact the lives of others"*. Another stated, *"Ella is a truly unique and outstanding young lady. She is dedicated, creative, committed to serving people as a physician, takes initiative, and has a remarkable background of experience. As club president for the campus chapter of the [Christian Medical and Dental Association](#) (CMDA), she organizes events both on and off university grounds. This is also true as vice president of the Diagnostic Medicine Club. She is a*

*student ambassador for PNWU. Ella has taken part in a Life Choices Tour, shadowing with Yakima Regional Hospice and Family Healthcare of Ellensburg, traveling to the capitol to participate in DO Day in Olympia Washington, volunteering at Rod's House (a drop-in resource center for homeless youth in Yakima), participating in Interprofessional education via the YVIEPEC Global to Local Health Innovation Lab, and many other activities in medical school, too numerous to mention".*

Ella is founder and president of R.E.A.C.H. (a University of Washington student organization: Reaching out, Encouraging others, Accepting the Call, Committing to Christ, Honoring God), WISE co-president (Women in Science and Engineering), and served as a Page for the Washington State House of Representatives.

*Ella says it best when she states, "My passion for service extends to the streets of Yakima and Seattle. I have had the opportunity to participate in breakfast outreaches in both areas serving the homeless population. I completed an outreach to a homeless tent city, elderly home, and local community while on summer break. I see myself continuing these involvements and finding ways to incorporate my medical training. I am excited to continue implementing Osteopathic Medical Philosophy and treatment in caring for patients and daily in life. I plan to make a difference and provide relief to promote health".*

We believe you, Ella. Congratulations on a job well done!

---

## **Using the Health Information Exchange and Electronic Healthcare Records System to Provide Seamless Access to Prescription Monitoring Data**

Produced By: The Washington State Prescription Monitoring Program

### **Opioid Misuse, Abuse, Overdose, Morbidity, and Mortality June 2017**

#### **Situation**

Opioid drug overdose deaths (mostly caused by opioids) surpassed deaths caused by traffic accidents in Washington State in 2006 and remain the state's leading cause of accidental death. Prescription monitoring data (2014) show that Washington pharmacies dispense nearly 1 million controlled substance prescriptions each month – enough for nearly every Washingtonian to have two controlled substance prescriptions per year. More than half of these prescriptions are for an opioid, and nearly one in four Washingtonians received at least one controlled substance prescription during the year. The prescription opioid misuse and abuse epidemic remains a dire problem in Washington, with wide-ranging collateral consequences for our population and our public health system.

In October 2011, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) began operating a controlled substance dispensing record repository known as the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP – also known as Prescription Review). The PMP captures records of all controlled substances dispensed from Washington dispensers regardless of payment source, prescriber, or healthcare network. It makes this dispensing history available to healthcare providers (HCP) so they may better ensure their patients' safety. However, HCPs are missing opportunities to ensure patient safety by not using this available resource. Nearly 70 percent of Washington HCPs authorized to prescribe controlled substance medications remain without the ability to check patients' controlled substance history on

the PMP. Those providers have not completed the free PMP account registration process. Frustratingly low adoption of the PMP by HCPs remains a barrier to realizing a full return on Washington's investment in the PMP.

#### **Remedies Available for Addressing PMP Underuse:**

- **Education and training encouraging HCP registration and use**
- **Integrated, seamless access to PMP data within the HCP's EHR system**

Education and training to HCPs has been under way since before the PMP went live in 2011. PMP staff members continue to provide education and training upon request. Integrated, seamless access to PMP data within the HCP's EHR system is an effective way to increase use by reducing barriers to registration, and accessing the PMP. Increasing PMP data use in your facility not only benefits patients, providers, and the facility by increasing patient safety, but provides additional benefits to facilities interested in participating in and receiving reimbursements from Meaningful Use, as this integration is available for meeting participation requirements.

#### **Problem - Solution**

Since going live, primary access to the PMP has been through a web portal which involves accessing the Internet, navigating to the sign-on site, completing user authentication, accessing the PMP site, and navigating to the screen where patient data can be entered for query. Access is available to HCPs only once they've completed the account registration and activation process. Users who access the service more frequently are more in tune with the process and have a much easier time accessing. The result for HCPs is a web portal that is accessible from nearly any location with security and authentication that, though not difficult, take additional time. Our recommendation for HCPs using the PMP web portal is to access often enough that it becomes second nature, and use the delegate management feature on the system to authorize support staff to perform PMP query as much as possible.

Fortunately, Washington State has established a Health Information Exchange (HIE) where trading partners can access protected health information (PHI) directly through their Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems. Clinics, hospitals, and offices where patients are treated can benefit from PMP data by building this connection. Integrating the PMP transaction to their EHR provides seamless access within their workflow with no additional log-on or authentication processes for the HCPs. Integration of the PMP transaction to the native EMR system puts PMP data in the hands of HCPs within their normal workflow and at the critical point they need it.

Integrated, seamless access to PMP data within the HCP's EHR system eliminates the need for the HCP to complete the registration process for web access, and reduces or completely removes barriers for accessing PMP data at the time of the patient visit. The resulting increase in PMP data use benefits patients, providers, and the facility by increasing patient safety. Additionally, facilities interested in participating and receiving reimbursements from Meaningful Use can use this integration for meeting participation requirements.

Through the summer of 2015, PMP staff members worked with technical staff members from our system vendor, One Health Port (OHP) and Epic, in developing and pilot testing of this connection and transaction for the Epic EMR system. Epic developed and released a module to its Washington clients in December of 2015. This new module allows Epic users to transact and ingest PMP data directly to the patient record in the native EMR.

#### **Success**

PMP's connection to the HIE has been in place since late 2013. The first to take advantage of that connection was the Emergency Department Information Exchange (EDIE). PMP data went live on the EDIE system in November of 2014. Through 2015 more than 2.2 million PMP

queries were completed by EDIE – about 120 percent more than the number of queries made by all other HCPs in all other healthcare settings over the PMP web portal for the year. ED physicians have been thankful to have this important information delivered by an automated process, saving time and helping to ensure patient safety.

---

*Do you have member news to share with  
your osteopathic colleagues?*

Please send it and a related photo, if available, to [jperlmutter@woma.org](mailto:jperlmutter@woma.org)

[Website](#) [About Us](#) [Advocacy](#) [Careers](#) [Communications](#)

The Washington Osteopathic Medical Association

