

Council on Research and Graduate Education Nominee Statements

Regular Faculty Nominees (vote for 3)

Kristina Adams Waldorf, M.D., Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology

I am a physician-scientist studying infectious diseases and therapeutics in pregnancy. I am committed to improving the UW research enterprise and trainee affairs. I am a prior Chair of the Council on Research & Graduate Education (CORGE) and also a "UW Ally" to support trainees in conflict/distress. My goals in serving a second term on CORGE are to: 1) leverage the committee to research the pressing issues facing our research enterprise/trainee affairs, 2) actively prioritize what is urgent and actionable, and 3) to bring stakeholders together to make progress in improving the UW research and trainee environment.

Alison Drake, M.D., Associate Professor (eff. 7/1), Global Health

I have been a faculty member of the Department of Global Health since 2014 and am dedicated to preparing graduate students with exemplary training, education, and research experiences to become the next generation of leaders. I designed and led one of the largest graduate certificate programs (Global WACH) at UW, which was purposely developed to focus on experiential learning, interdisciplinary coursework, diversity and inclusion, and mentorship on soft-skills in order to provide students with an out-of-classroom experience complementing their degree program training. In addition, I teach 2 courses in the school of public health, with both graduate and undergraduate students, including a course on responsible conduct of research.

Sam Golden, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Biological Structure

I am an assistant professor in the department of Biological Structure, where my lab focusses on understanding the neural basis of social motivation within the context of neuropsychiatric disease. We are especially interested in understanding aggression reward, and how this behavior can transition from adaptive to maladaptive. Outside of my research interests, I am dedicated to supporting UW's educational mission at all levels though undergraduate teaching (NEUROSCI 401, Neuroanatomy & Systems Neuroscience), undergraduate outreach (Faculty Advisor for Grey Matters Journal), graduate education (NEU 527), and as a member in the UW Graduate Program in Neuroscience (GPN) Admissions Committee. Participation in this committee with further my goals of supporting and improving UW's trainee environment.

Ram Savan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Immunology

I am currently an Associate Professor with tenure at the Department of Immunology, School of Medicine. My research focuses on understanding molecular mechanisms of heterogeneous immune responses against viral infections. I have been committed to training, mentoring, and teaching in many capacities, both in the medical and graduate programs. I served as a graduate student advisor in the immunology graduate program. I am currently serving on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee of the immunology department. I am actively engaged in service at local, national, and international levels.

Larry Wissow, M.D., Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

I am a relatively new faculty member, division chief for child psychiatry, and "live" mostly at Seattle Children's. I would appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the UW side of my role and in particular how to best promote the scholarly careers of the faculty in our division as well as faculty across the SOM. Though now I have a more administrative position, for many years most of my time was spent as a PI or co-investigator on NIH-funded work, I also served for several years as a member, vice-chair, or co-chair of the IRB, and was based in a PhD-granting department, at my former institution. That doesn't mean that I don't still have lots to learn, especially about a place that is still new to me in many ways.

Smita Yadav, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Pharmacology

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and the Institute of Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine at the University of Washington since 2017. My research program focuses on neuronal development and the role of kinase dysfunction in neurodevelopmental disorders, and has been funded by the NIH Pathway to Independence Award, the Brain and Behavior Foundation, and the National Institute of Mental Health. For the past four years, I have served on the NIMH study section for Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Complex Brain Disorders. I am passionate about increasing access to research and education opportunities, and have been the chair/co-chair of the Department of Pharmacology DEI committee since 2018.

Research Faculty Nominees (vote for 1)

Erkang Fan, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, Biochemistry

I am a research associate professor at the Department of Biochemistry, with research focusing on drug discovery for treating infectious diseases. My research experience will suit well the duties for the Council on Research and Graduate Education.

Tomas Vaisar, Ph.D., Research Professor, Medicine

I would bring a unique perspective with experience of 25+ years of basic, translational and clinical research including 10 years in biotech. I have also trained number of fellows who launched successful independent careers.