Most counties in Washington and in surrounding states lack mental health specialists such as psychiatrists and psychologists, and more than half of the people in need do not see a mental health professional. At UW Medicine, faculty and staff in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences are committed to training and supporting tomorrow’s mental health care providers for Washington state and the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) region.

Our training programs work to recruit, train and retain the best and brightest health professionals into mental health care, improving access to and quality of care and meeting the needs of the millions of individuals living with mental disorders in Washington state and beyond. With donor investment, we can attract and support more trainees and make our educational programs even more effective — achieving our goal of mental health care for all.

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION

DEBORAH COWLEY, M.D.
UW Professor and Vice Chair of Education and Faculty Development

Developing the next generation of mental health professionals in our region starts with University of Washington undergraduate students. Being a successful and effective health professional requires a solid understanding of human motivation, health behaviors and lifestyle choices. We seek funding to create a new program in behavioral medicine that would prepare pre-health students at UW to succeed in health professions such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy or physical therapy as well as expose them to career opportunities in mental health.

We also seek funding to support the careers of psychiatrists-and psychologists-in-training, helping them become the best practitioners they can be. Enhancing our first-class training programs with research scholarships, retreats and diversity outreach and recruitment will all add to a rich environment that sets UW Medicine apart and helps our department recruit the people who will become the best mental health professionals in the country.

ADDITIONAL LEAD FACULTY
Heidi Combs, M.D., UW Associate Professor and Director, Medical Student Training
Elizabeth McCauley, Ph.D., ABPP, UW Professor and Director, Psychology Internship Program
Suzanne Murray, M.D., UW Associate Professor and Director, Psychiatry Residency Training Program

MAKING MENTAL HEALTH CARE READILY AVAILABLE

ANNA RATZLIFF, M.D., PH.D.
UW Associate Professor

We want to build a psychiatric workforce that will partner with healthcare professionals in primary-care clinics, community health centers, rural access hospitals, school-based health centers and correctional facilities — all to create more ways for people to access effective mental health care. Interdisciplinary training programs, such as our new Integrated Care Training Program (ICTP), directed by Dr. Anna Ratzliff, can dramatically shape mental health care delivery in our state and beyond and could help improve care for millions of patients with mental health or substance-use problems.

SUPPORTING GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH LEADERS

JÜRGEN UNÜTZER, M.D., MPH, M.A.
UW Professor and Chair

As a national leader in both global health and psychiatry, the University of Washington attracts superbly qualified students and fellows with a passion for
global mental health. In-depth, mentored experiences in global mental health build skills, awareness and commitment. We intend to provide scholarships and fellowships to the next generation of scholars and leaders in global mental health, attracting students from low- and middle-income countries (where the need for mental health care is high) as well as from the U.S.

JOIN US

Philanthropy is crucial to the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at UW Medicine, allowing for the development of vital research programs, the recruitment and retention of expert faculty and the training of the next generation of psychiatry experts and leaders.

To support the department, or to learn more about our vision for inspiring the next generation of mental health professionals, please contact David Chow, director for philanthropy, at 206.543.7252 or chowd@uw.edu. Thank you for your interest in our work.