The University of Florida College of Pharmacy’s Center for Pharmacogenomics is a leading academic institution in pharmacogenomics research and the training of future scientists. Established in 2001 by College of Pharmacy Dean Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., the center strives to identify genetic variations that affect drug response, with the goal of enabling safer and more effective drug therapy.

**Mission**

The Center for Pharmacogenomics aims to improve patient outcomes by maximizing efficacy and minimizing toxicity of drug therapy through research, teaching, and service focused on genetically guided drug therapy decision making, drug discovery and drug development.

**Leaders in Precision Medicine**

Center researchers have made major breakthroughs in determining how genes influence responses to drugs, including the discovery of genetic variants that predict the effectiveness or proper dose of medications used to treat high blood pressure, cancer, and blood clots. At the forefront of moving pharmacogenomic discoveries into patient care, the center collaborates with UF Health’s Personalized Medicine Program to establish genotyping as part of clinical care to guide drug prescribing. Among the center’s major accomplishments:

- College of Pharmacy faculty are among the originally funded members of the National Institutes of Health-supported Implementing Genomics In Practice (IGNITE) Network that was created to enhance the use of genomic medicine in clinical care. UF’s IGNITE grant focuses on implementing pharmacogenetics into clinical practice.
- Faculty have authored multiple guidelines for the Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium, or CPIC, which is a panel of experts who provide guidelines on applying genotype information to prescribing decisions.
- Faculty have published high-impact papers in precision medicine in major medical journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of Clinical Oncology, the Lancet and the Journal of the American Medical Association.
- Researchers in the center led a landmark study that found genotype-guided treatment can significantly improve patient outcomes after a heart procedure known as percutaneous coronary intervention.
CENTER FOR PHARMACOGENOMICS

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Excellence in Research
Core faculty in the center have been highly successful in securing grants that place the center among the top-funded pharmacogenomic programs in the country. In 2016, more than $3.2 million in research funding was obtained through federal grants and other sources. The center also provides genotyping services to the UF research community as a mechanism to enhance the quality and quantity of pharmacogenomics research at the University of Florida.

Training Future Scientists and Practitioners
The center trains future scientists and practitioners in pharmacogenomics through graduate, residency and postdoctoral fellowship training as well as summer research experiences for Pharm.D. students. The center’s PGY2 pharmacogenetics residency program is one of only two American Society of Health-System Pharmacists-accredited pharmacogenetics programs in the nation.

Faculty Awards
Faculty in the center are annually recognized for their contributions to pharmaceutical sciences research. Recent national awards include:

- Rhonda Cooper-DeHoff, Pharm.D., was presented with the 2016 Russell R. Miller Award at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s Annual Meeting. The award is given in recognition of substantial contributions to clinical pharmacy literature.

- Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., was honored with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Volwiler Research Achievement Award, the nation’s top academic pharmacy research honor. In addition, Johnson was named one of Thomson Reuters’ Highly Cited Researchers of 2016.