



Washington Research
FOUNDATION

Will Canestaro Joins Washington Research Foundation Staff

SEATTLE, WA—June 21, 2016

Will Canestaro, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington (UW), has joined the staff of Washington Research Foundation (WRF).

Canestaro joins WRF as a manager focused on strategic investments, and in addition will support the Foundation's gift activities. WRF uses proceeds from its investments in local startups to supplement its gift program, which funds research at nonprofit institutions in Washington state. Over recent years, WRF has [increased its largest gifts](#) with the expectation that this will lead to a bigger impact in the state.

Canestaro's professional background includes health economic and outcomes consulting for organizations including the National Pharmaceutical Council, Genentech and AstraZeneca. He has extensive experience with comparative effectiveness research and program development through roles with Generation Health and Correlagen in New England.

Ron Howell, WRF's CEO, said, "We've worked with Will for a number of years starting with his WRF fellowship at UW. His experience in both industry and academia will give us some additional expertise when we are looking at investment opportunities and research proposals. I'm particularly impressed with his ability to provide detailed evaluations of data-driven models plus purely scientific assessments of a project's viability. This will be hugely beneficial on both the investing and gifting sides of WRF."

Canestaro will complete his Ph.D. in UW's Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program during the summer, with a focus on development of methods to attach economic value to unpublished research. He gained a bachelor's degree in medical sociology and pre-medicine from Dartmouth College and a master's in medical anthropology from Oxford University.

About Washington Research Foundation

Washington Research Foundation was formed in 1981 to assist universities and other nonprofit research institutions in Washington state with the commercialization and licensing of their technologies. WRF is recognized as one of the foremost technology transfer organizations in the nation and has returned nearly \$500 million to the state's research institutions through gifts and licensing disbursements.

WRF Capital, the Foundation's venture investment arm, has invested more than \$80 million in 68 local life sciences, physical sciences and information sciences startups and limited partnerships. Proceeds provide support for WRF's gift program.

For Additional Information

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