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Celebration of Erin Terrio's Life

Second-year pharmacy student Erin Terrio's life was celebrated during a service on campus Jan. 20. If you were unable to attend, a [video highlighting the joy that she brought to the lives of those she encountered is available to watch](#). Terrio passed away Dec. 22 due to complications of a life-long illness. Terrio is survived by her parents, Drs. James and Heidi Terrio, her sister Jennifer Terrio, her partner Stephen Moen, 40 extended family members and many, many friends.

VIDEO

In the News

During January, the School, faculty, and students were highlighted in numerous news outlets including 5280 Magazine's January main edition and the Health Supplement edition where [Drs. Valuck, Linnebur and Borgelt](#) made the cut in a variety of articles ranging in topics from pain medications to medication-assisted treatment to marijuana and its impact on motivation.

[Aurora 8](#) dropped by early January and taped a piece on our Pharmacist for a Day program, where pharmacy students teach area 4th graders about medicines and candy and compounding. Second-year pharmacy student Dianne Kitt did a wonderful job explaining the program.

Drs. Moore and Wilson, and P-4 MaLaura Creager, hosted a Jan. 24 call-in on 9NEWS about the dangers associated with mixing medications.

Look for an upcoming interview with Dr. Valuck on Fox31 on the pros



P-1 Steven Shaffer helps a 4th grader from Park Lane Elementary during Pharmacist for a Day.

and cons of Abilify, an antipsychotic medicine used to treat the symptoms of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Congratulations

The inaugural ALSAM Therapeutic Innovations grants were recently awarded to the following faculty.

- **Tom Anchordoquy. Grant Title:** Nucleic acid-based therapies for blood-borne viruses. In collaboration with Dr. Maria Nagel in Neurology, we have developed a nanoparticle that is taken up by the same cells that are responsible for spreading viral infections. Although our initial work focuses on the chicken pox virus, the general strategy of loading this particle agents that arrest viral replication offers the potential for treating a wide range of viral infections, e.g.. Zika, West Nile, HIV.
- **Krishna Mallela. Grant Title:** Protein structure-function based engineering of mini-dystrophins and mini-utrophins to treat muscular dystrophy. This proposal aims to find cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common genetic lethal disorder in children. This disease literally tears skeletal muscle apart since dystrophic muscle lacks critical force dissipating capacity. Symptoms beginning at age 2 that include constant falling, waddling, and outturned knees progress rapidly with patients' life spans rarely exceeding early to mid-twenties. We plan to develop a new and never-explored combinatorial therapy using improved gene constructs, viral vectors, and stem cells, and will test in human muscle cells derived from patients.
- **Vanessa Phelan. Grant Title:** Multiplex interactions leading to the development of microbiome dysbiosis and response of a microbiome community to clinical therapy. According to Phelan, "Many diseases have been linked to changes in the composition of our microbial inhabitants. This project aims to understand how and why those changes occur. In particular, we are interested in how clinical treatments affect these microbial communities."
- **Phil Reigan. Grant Title:** Targeting the MUC1-C Oncoprotein. MUC1-C is highly expressed in a number of cancer types and acts as a platform for cell signaling networks that promote tumor growth and survival. We propose to target MUC1-C directly with small molecules to disrupt these pro-tumor signaling cascades and indirectly by targeting the main downstream effector of the signaling network. In collaboration with Dr. Jordan at the Dept of Hematology we will evaluate these MUC1-C inhibitors in model systems of acute myeloid leukemia, and determine their effect in the bulk tumor and in drug resistant cancer stem cells.



Impressionist Artworks on

P-4 Interviewed for National

Display at Anschutz Campus

An exhibit made possible through Associate Dean for Academic Affairs David Thompson, PhD, is coming to the Anschutz Medical Campus. An exhibit of impressionist artworks rarely seen by the public will be on display March 31 - May 26. Titled **Masterworks**, the exhibit is from the private collection of Drs. Tobia and Morton Mower, and includes works by Cassatt, Degas, Monet, Pissaro, Renoir, Rodin and Sisley. Don't miss this exciting exhibit, which will be held in the Art Gallery at the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities. Be on the lookout for more information.

Podcast

Fourth-year pharmacy student Lindsay Case was interviewed by Tony Guerra for his [Pharmacy Future Leaders podcast](#), a national podcast reaching 62,000 subscribers. She spoke about rural health, international rotations and the road to ambulatory care. The half-hour interview is well worth a listen.

[LISTEN](#)

Your Chance to Cheer on SSPPS

The P2 team of Brandon Perticone, Cady Mathews and Taylor Schaffner will represent the school at the Medisca Student Pharmacist Compounding Challenge national competition. The team competed against P3 and P1 teams in formulation and compounding, and in a regulatory challenge in which teams presented a business plan for a compounding pharmacy associated with the School of Pharmacy. The team will travel to Aventura, FL for the national competition on March 18 and 19. This will be the fourth time that the school has competed in the Medisca SPCC. Sending good vibes their way!



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