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Survey on opioid awareness in Colorado



Robert Valuck, PhD

A survey finds Coloradans are concerned about prescription drug abuse and support increased state funding for initiatives to address the epidemic, according to a survey commissioned by the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention to measure the public's awareness of the opioid crisis.

More than half of the survey's 1,400 respondents (57 percent) thought there was a problem with people in their community misusing prescription medication such as opioids. [Learn more](#)

Inspiration for future pharmacists

Sheldon "Shelly" E. Steinhauser knows the value of pharmacy – it was instilled in him during his childhood. His father, an immigrant, was a Navy doctor and, later, a neighborhood physician who worked closely with a trusted community pharmacist.

"My father wouldn't make a key decision about prescribing drugs for his patients without consulting the pharmacist," said Shelly. "Today, people are just as likely to turn to pharmacists whenever they have questions about prescription drugs and other health aids. They're critical to our health care system."

Shelly, along with other scholarship donors, was recently honored at the first Skaggs School of Pharmacy Scholarship Luncheon held December 7th. [Learn more](#)



Sheldon Steinhauser

Blood pressure research featured in cardiology publication



**Catherine Derington, PharmD
(Class of 2016)**

Dr. Catherine Derington's research on the impact of multiple medications on blood pressure was recently featured in MDedge|Cardiology, an online publication of Cardiology News. Dr. Derington, a CU-KPCO fellow, was a lead investigator in a post-hoc analysis of data from the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT).

"When you are treating a patient for hypertension, you care about blood pressure, but you also need to care about what else they are on, and their total drug burden, because it affects their ability to get to their blood pressure

goal, especially if you're targeting intensive control," said Derington. Dr. Derington presented her research at the Joint Scientific Sessions on Hypertension in September and is pursuing formal publication in a peer-reviewed journal. [Learn More](#)

ASHP Midyear Conference Dispatch



**P4s Kiley Fuller (right) and
Amanda Van Matre (left)**



**CU Pharmacy faculty and alumni mingle at
local restaurant.**

Continuing the winning streak of previous Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science competitors, Kiley Fuller (P4) and Amanda Van Matre (P4) placed 3rd in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' 2018 Clinical Skills Competition. Fuller and Van Matre join the ranks of past CU Pharmacy students who have consistently placed among the top three winners since 2014.

On the first evening of the conference, CU Pharmacy alumni, faculty and incoming students, gathered at the Mulberry Street Ristorante in Fullerton to reminisce and connect. Local alumni from the classes of 1979, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2018 came together to catch up with each other, as well as chat with Dean Ralph Altieri and other faculty in town for the meeting.

"At these alumni gatherings, we often have the good fortune of meeting alumni from a wide range of years. Anaheim drew alums from the past 39 years, which

makes it a rich and exciting time to catch up and learn about their careers and lives. We were also fortunate to meet a student who will join our entering class in August 2019. She in turn learned about our school and programs firsthand from our alums," said Dean Altieri. "These gatherings also are a great way for our faculty to a catch up with alums and learn how they are shaping the profession. Knowing the changing dynamics of pharmacy helps us to keep our students current on what opportunities will exist for them upon graduation."

Alumni gatherings happen periodically throughout the year and are open to all CU Pharmacy grads. The next alumni and friends gathering is planned for Seattle at the end of March. Contact Jaron Bryant (jaron.bryant@ucdenver.edu) for assistance with coordinating an alumni event.

Journal dedicates issue to CU Pharmacy faculty

The Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences (JPharmSci®) will dedicate a future issue of the journal to John F. Carpenter, PhD. The honor is bestowed in view of Dr. Carpenter's tremendous impact on research in the area of pharmaceutical biotechnology, his longstanding commitment to the training and mentoring of the next generation of young scientists in this area, and his dedication to professional service in the pharmaceutical sciences and biological engineering. The dedication is scheduled for publication in the January 2020 issue of the journal.

Dr. Jon Campbell reflects on his six-month sabbatical

"Going into this sabbatical, I knew that leaving home and living abroad (not a requirement of sabbaticals, but a part of my plans for this particular one) would be disruptive to me and all members of the family. I suppose that is the point of a sabbatical – to shake things up, to be open to new ideas and change, and to come out of the experience a wiser and more well-rounded person," said Dr. Jon Campbell.



But, this was more than a personal journey for Dr. Campbell. "Multicriteria decision analysis is a new method for me. By joining the Syreon Research Institute group in Budapest for six months, I wanted to learn aspects of this new method and apply it to situations in the United States," Campbell explained. [Learn more](#)

Jonathan Campbell, PhD (right) pictured with Professor Zoltan Kalo (left) and partner Kriszti Toth (middle)

Is snowboarding harder than grad school?

That is one recent poll posted on Instagram by P2 pharmacy student Meena Mattamana over the Winter break. And the results were close with grad school edging out snowboarding by just 10%. Mattamana, a student Ambassador, recently took over the CU Pharmacy social media to offer a peek into student



life. The poll was inspired after a rather arduous snowboarding lesson. Over the next couple of months, Mattamana will post current news and updates, with a healthy mix of student perspective. You can keep up with the School's news (and Meena's adventures) on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

In the News

Check out the CU Pharmacy alumni and experts that were featured in the news during the month of December:

- **Henry L. Strauss** (Class of 1951) is featured in this [CU Anschutz Today article](#), recognizing the recent renaming of the Health Sciences Library in his honor.
- **Rob Valuck, PhD** (Class of 1987) offered his perspective in the [latest article on the opioid crisis](#).
- **Thomas Anchordoquy, PhD** had his research on the oral delivery of medication for chemotherapy highlighted in this [Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences article](#):



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