



**Skaggs School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

E SCRIPTS

eScripts is a monthly newsletter highlighting faculty, staff, students and alumni.



Clockwise from top: A first-year student poses for a photo after the 2019 White Coat Ceremony; students grab barbecue after the ceremony; P1 students meet Dr. Brian Hemstreet at a Colorado Rockies game.

Welcome, Class of 2023!

After barbecues, a baseball game and the 2019 White Coat Ceremony, CU Pharmacy has officially welcomed the Class of 2023 to the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

The White Coat Ceremony, hosted on campus, brought together incoming students for the first time. After hearing welcoming remarks from Dean Ralph Altieri and getting "coated" by CU Pharmacy Associate Dean for Academic Affairs David Thompson, PhD, and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Brian Hemstreet, PharmD, students gathered with family to eat plenty of barbecue.

Students also attended a Colorado Rockies game, where they had a chance to hang out Dr. Hemstreet.

The ceremony was streamed live during the event.

[Watch the ceremony](#)

[See more photos](#)

Getting to know each other

Before classes officially started, incoming first-year students gathered in Denver's Central Park to meet classmates, professors and staff in a fun setting.

Check out scenes from the school year kick-off event.



Faculty, student honored as national award finalists

Two CU Pharmacy faculty members and a student are representing the future of pharmacy, and in October, an awards ceremony will put a spotlight on each of them.

Associate Professor Sarah Anderson, PharmD, Assistant Professor Rhianna Fink, PharmD, and student Nashel Patel are all finalists for the Next Gen Pharmacy Awards, which recognizes innovators in the profession across a variety of roles.

The awards, which are sponsored by Pharmacy Times and Parata Systems, will honor 30 finalists from across the country.

The publication will host a reception in San



Dr. Sarah Anderson

Diego on Oct. 25 honoring each of the nominees.

Anderson (Class of '07) was a finalist in the Health-System Pharmacist category. In addition to her faculty position at CU Pharmacy, Anderson works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Gipson Eastside Family Health Center, the oldest community health clinic west of the Mississippi.

Fink, a finalist in the Patient Care Provider category, works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Clinica Family Health Services.

Patel, a fourth-year PharmD student, is a finalist in the Future Pharmacist category. Upon graduating, Patel's goal is to work as a pharmacist in an industry position.

Stay tuned for more coverage of these award-winning pharmacists and pharmacist-in-training.



Dr. Rhianna Fink



Nashel Patel

Explore the PharmD program



CU Pharmacy professor obtains clinical hypnosis training

For some, the word hypnosis can conjure up images of a stage performer dangling a watch in front of a participant's face. But for many healthcare clinicians, the reality is far removed from that myth: clinical hypnosis is a tool that helps take patients to a deeper state of mind to change behaviors, assist in therapy and help make lasting health changes.

Dr. Connie Valdez (Class of '95) is an associate professor at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and a practicing pharmacist. She turned to the therapy technique when she saw that patients at her clinical practice sites had trouble sticking with health goals.

[Read more](#)

Getting ready for homecoming

The CU Buffs homecoming game is right around the corner, and CU Pharmacy is in luck. The team is offering \$25 tickets as part of a CU Pharmacy promotion.

Are you ready to purchase your tickets?

[Get tickets](#)



International student awarded Pharmacy Educator Scholarship

CU Pharmacy international student Neemat Srour knows exactly what she wants to do once she graduates: expand pharmacy in her home country of Lebanon.

She was recently awarded a tool to help her do just that. Neemat is the recipient of the school's International Pharmacy Educator Scholarship.

The scholarship, created for students in the school's International-Trained PharmD program, focuses on increasing patient-centered pharmacy practice in international settings.

Check out Neemat's story, in her own words:

I'm from Lebanon and love traveling. I took my BSc in pharmacy from the Lebanese University and earned a Master's degree in Pharmacology from France.

I moved later to Saudi Arabia and worked as a pharmacist in critical care and emergency department.

[Read more](#)



[Learn more about iPharmD](#)

What's up, DOPS?



The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences gathered in Breckenridge to share ideas and celebrate research this month at an annual retreat.

The event, hosted at Beaver Run Resort, brought together researchers near and far to display posters and participate in panels.

As part of the event, CU Pharmacy's experts discussed topics ranging from artificial intelligence and machine learning to cell therapy and immunotherapy in cancer.

Explore PhD programs

CU Pharmacy Thought Leaders

From fighting opioid overdoses to examining the role of marijuana for pain relief, our CU Pharmacy professionals are in the news:

- **Westword:** [Colorado Wants You To Know About This Life-Saving Drug](#)
- **CPR News:** [It's Not Just For First Responders Anymore. Health Experts Want Regular Coloradans To Have Naloxone On Hand.](#)
- **9News:** [Coloradans encouraged to 'bring naloxone home' to fight opioid crisis](#)
- **KUNC:** [New Law Allows Coloradans To Use Medical Marijuana Instead Of Opioids For Pain](#)
- **The Colorado Sun:** [In Denver, a binge drinking capital, the sober curious movement is gaining popularity](#)
- **Drug Topics:** [Preventing errors with high-risk medications](#)
- **The Durango Herald:** [16 million pain pills: Southwest Colorado works to reverse epidemic](#)

- **CPR News: Want To Know Where The Opioid Epidemic Hit Colorado Hardest? Follow Where The Pills Went**
- **9News: Number of properly discarded syringes went up 78% in Denver in one year**
- **CPR News: Aug. 14, 2019: What's Next For The DIA Remodel; Treating Pain & Addiction Together**
- **The Fix: Doctors Remain Skeptical Of Marijuana For Pain Relief**
- **Pharmacy Times: Driving Cholesterol Levels Down With a Focus on PCSK9 Inhibitors**
- **9News: What you need to know about shingles and the vaccine**
- **CBS 4: Under-Used: Colorado Expert Says Buprenorphine Is An Effective Opioid Treatment**
- **CBS New York: Experts Pushing For More Widespread Use Of Medication To Fight Opioid Addiction**
- **Lincoln Journal Star: SNCC welcomes Darryl Nunes as lead pharmacist**
- **McKnight's Long-Term Care News: Geriatrics conference to cover medications, mobility**
- **The Colorado Sun: Colorado emergency rooms are trying something new to stem the opioid crisis: addiction treatment**

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