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Legislators consider new bills to curb opioid crisis



Colorado legislators are back in session to consider new bills.

The Colorado Legislature is back in session, and once again faculty from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are working closely with lawmakers to provide their expertise on the opioid crisis.

The Legislature convened in early January, and its agenda included bills that would expand medication-assisted treatment and create new law enforcement programs. “The bills the legislature passed last year and the ones it will consider this session will make an impact to Coloradans dealing with substance use disorder and help the public understand the risks of opioids,” said Robert Valuck PhD, RPh, executive director of the Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse. [Learn more](#)

New grant supports novel approaches for drug value assessments

The University of Colorado Center for Pharmaceutical Value (PValue) has been established with a Value



(left to right) Drs. Melanie Whittington, R. Brett McQueen and Jonathan Campbell

Assessment Center of Excellence Award from the PhRMA Foundation. The foundation grant of \$500,000 will support PValue researchers to test multicriteria decision analysis (MCDA) as a decision tool. PValue pilot experiments will help determine where expanded decision tools should be used alongside existing approaches to maintain transparency and consistency while introducing more fairness in pharmaceutical coverage and reimbursement decision making in the United States. [Learn more](#)

4th graders inspire future pharmacists



4th grade student receives "Future Pharmacist" white coat during closing ceremony.

Approximately 280 4th graders from local elementary schools in Aurora visited campus over winter break to participate in the award-winning and ever-popular event called "Pharmacist for a Day." A spin-off of the Service Learning Program, this event is a way to engage youth in health education while providing pharmacy students the opportunity to develop their skills as healthcare professionals. Translating pharmacy education into something that is both accessible and meaningful to diverse groups of children proves to be a valuable exercise in effective communication. [Learn more](#)

FIP's Duggan Issues Global Call to Action at SNOW Symposium

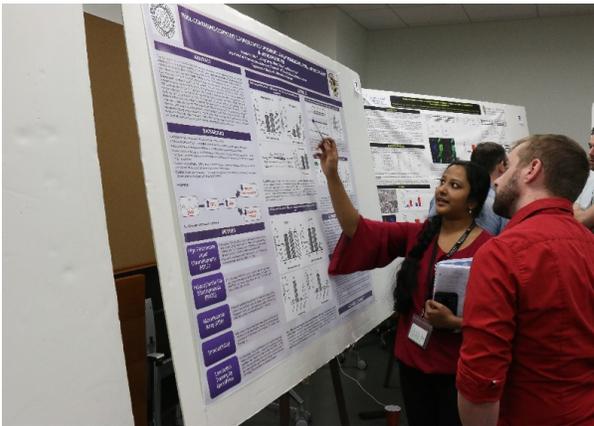
Pharmacists will – and must – play key roles in tackling the world's health challenges, Dr. Catherine Duggan, chief executive officer of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, said in her keynote address to the second Pharmacy Strategies for New Opportunities



*Dr. Catherine Duggan,
CEO, Fédération Internationale
Pharmaceutique (FIP)*

Worldwide (SNOW) Symposium in Breckenridge.

Dr. Duggan cited the World Health Organization's 2019 list of global health issues ranging from the potential for an influenza pandemic to antimicrobial resistance to HIV in her speech. "Pharmacy is absolutely front and center in all these challenges," said Dr. Duggan, who recently became CEO of the federation, known as FIP for its French name Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique. [Learn more](#)



*Graduate student, Ashwini Sri Hari,
explains research project.*

Graduate student symposium shines light on new research

The Winter Symposium held Tuesday, Jan. 15 at CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences featured research projects from 26 graduate students within the toxicology, pharmaceutical sciences, and pharmaceutical outcomes research programs.

The day's events consisted of 11 oral presentations and 15 posters from students in a broad range of research topics. The scheduled presentations were broken into two sections, separated by the keynote speaker, Dr. Sruti Shiva from the University of Pittsburgh - School of Medicine. Dr. Shiva presented her research on platelet mitochondrial (cellular structure) assessment as a biomarker of disease. She also described her involvement in investigating the potential benefits of nitrous oxide therapy on cardiac ischemia (lack of blood flow) and reperfusion injury (tissue damage from the return of blood flow after a period of lack of oxygen).

The symposium ended with the poster session and an awards ceremony for best poster (Reena Berman – Toxicology, Keisha Alexander – Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kimberly Deininger – Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research), best oral presentation (Ryan Mendoza - Toxicology, Mustafa Ibrahim - Pharmaceutical Sciences), and the

Heim award for outstanding graduate research (Nasser Alsaleh - Toxicology, Kimberly Casalvieri - Pharmaceutical Sciences).



Dr. Liza Claus

Pharmacist Line9 flooded with calls about the shingles vaccine

The January 24th Pharmacist Line9 generated a high volume of inquiries about the shingles vaccine, prompting 9news to feature CU Pharmacy professor, Liza Claus, PharmD in an interview on the subject. There is a national shortage of the shingles vaccine, Shingrix. The CDC recommends getting the shingles vaccine at 50 years old or older. [Learn more](#)

Dravet Foundation awards postdoctoral fellowship for disease outcomes research

Rajeswari Banerji, PhD, was recently awarded \$50,000 to continue her research on a genetic form of childhood epilepsy called Dravet syndrome (DS), caused by mutations in the sodium channel genes resulting in severe frequent seizures, developmental delays and sometimes early death. The goal of the proposal is to validate a metabolic gene as a therapeutic target for DS. She will be testing the anti-epileptic potential of the drug and validate its therapeutic target that improves the disease outcomes for DS. This work will help to understand the role of energy metabolism, particularly defects in glucose metabolism as the primary mechanism explaining DS etiology.

Student postscript from the Stock Show



P2 student, Devin Rose, prepares to give flu shot.

"Volunteering for the AHEC health screening booth at the National Western Stock Show has become one of my favorite volunteer opportunities thus far. I first volunteered last year and as a first-year student, I jumped at the chance to have more direct patient care experiences and was excited to do so in such a fun environment like the Stock Show. This opportunity was more rewarding than I had hoped, and I volunteered again to participate in this year's Stock Show. This year I not only was able to complete health screenings, but I also helped coordinate and administer the donated flu vaccines. [Learn more](#)

In the News

- [The first Colorado Senate bill of the session focuses on opioids](#)
KUSA, Ch 9, Jan. 9, 2019
- [‘It’s Not Too Late’: Free Flu Shots Given Out At Stock Show](#)
CBS Ch 4, Jan. 12, 2019



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