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The world becomes smaller for one Syrian pharmacy student

Earlier this month, Mais Humaideh was just a few days into her pharmacy courses and more than 6,000 miles from Syria when her world got just a little bit smaller.

Humaideh is one of seven of CU Pharmacy's [International-Trained PharmD \(ITPD\)](#) students taking part in a monthlong on-campus session at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

During the ITPD orientation session, Humaideh learned that her favorite professor from home in Syria, Dr. Sahar

Al Fahoum, was also in the Denver Metro area. As fate would have it, Al Fahoum's daughter, Sim Taleb, is an ITPD student in her final semesters and is in Denver completing Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential rotations.

Director of DDP Dr. Shaun Gleason facilitated a brief hug-and-smile-filled reunion between Humaideh and her beloved professor, connecting them for first time since 2012.

"I was just so surprised," Humaideh said. "I always looked at Dr. Al Fahoum as a great example to me."

The ITPD program requires that students possess a bachelor's degree in pharmacy and have a desire to expand pharmacy in their home countries. Humaideh earned her bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 2012. That's where she worked closely with Dr. Al Fahoum.



(Top to bottom) Mais Humaideh embraces Dr. Sahar Al Fahoum, her mentor in Syria at the CU School of Pharmacy; Humaideh poses for a photo at the CU Pharmacy sign on campus; Humaideh and Al Fahoum pose for a photo with Dean Ralph Altieri and Director of Distance Degrees and Programs Dr. Shaun Gleason.



During the four weeks that ITPD students are on campus in the summer, they take classes and participate in introductory pharmacy practice experiences.

Once the onsite experience is over, the students return to their homes across the globe to begin distance-based courses.

Humaideh, who graduated with a pharmacy degree from the University of Kalamoon in Syria, wants to expand her pharmacy education further so that one day, she can bring her training back home.

"To me, a PharmD is really important," she said. "To me, PharmD is really about building my country."

[Click here to read more.](#)

CU Pharmacy recognized

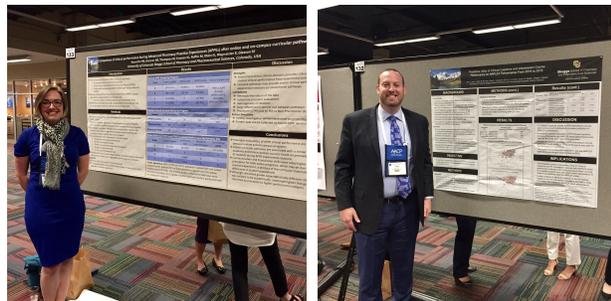
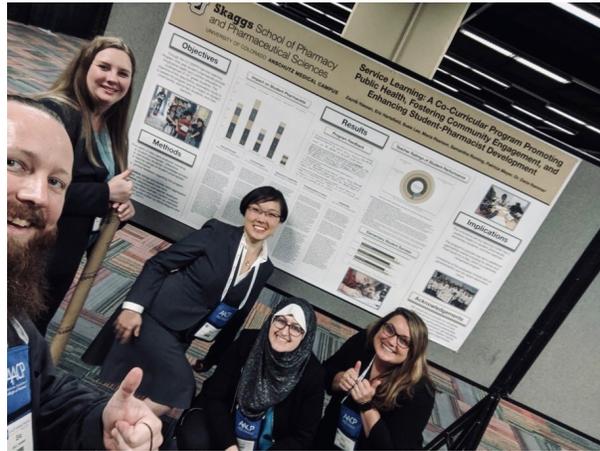
at annual AACP meeting

The University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences brought home three top awards from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's annual meeting, hosted in mid-July in Chicago.

- **Dean Ralph Altieri, PhD, accepted the George Spratto AACP Biological Sciences Section Distinguished Service Award.** According to the AACP, the honor is given each year to a member of the section "whose vision and service has inspired a collective appreciation for contributions of the biological sciences and scientists to biomedicine and, particularly, to professional and graduate education within schools and colleges of pharmacy."
- **Associate Dean for Administration and Operations Laura Borgelt, PharmD, received the Award for Best Manuscript in 2018** as a co-author for her work on "Navigating the Educational Approaches and Assessment for Personal and Professional Development."
- **Director of Practitioner and International Development Jodie Malhotra, PharmD, and Professor Christina Aquilante, PharmD, took home the Innovations in Continuing Professional Education Award** for [CU Pharmacy's pharmacogenomics certificate](#).



(From top to bottom) Dr. Laura Borgelt accepts the award for Best Manuscript in 2018; CU Pharmacy students pose for a photo during a poster presentation; Dr. Erica Rhein and Dr. Joel Marris pose for photos at a poster presentation (photos courtesy of Dr. Sarah Anderson).



The conference was also an opportunity for CU Pharmacy faculty and students to present on topics ranging from student learning during international rotations to service learning.

CU Pharmacy streamlines admissions process



CU Pharmacy students recite the "Oath of a Pharmacist" during the fall 2018 White Coat Ceremony.

CU Pharmacy made three major changes to streamline the admissions process and increase diversity in its pool of candidates.

Effective immediately, the school will no longer require the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), will allow all prerequisites to be completed at the community college level and will begin offering the option for a virtual interview.

[Click here to read more about the changes.](#)



International visitors from Ghana, Poland and Austria visited the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in July. CU Pharmacy student ambassador Hailee Griffin, far left, led Ernest Obese, Dr. Johnson Boampong, Dominika Poniedzialek and Mirjana Mandic on a tour of the campus.

CU Pharmacy welcomes visitors from Ghana

CU Pharmacy welcomed international visitors onto campus as part of an effort to foster communication, an exchange of information and experiences between pharmacists.

The Pharmabridge program, which is facilitated by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), is a voluntary initiative that intends to strengthen pharmacy services and pharmacy education in low-income and emerging countries, according to FIP.

Exchange students visit the CU Anschutz Medical Campus

CU Pharmacy also hosted students from Austria and Poland in July as part of an international student exchange program.

Mirjana Mandic of Austria and Dominika Poniedzialek of Poland traveled to the CU Anschutz Medical Campus as part of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation Student Exchange Programme, which sends more than 1,000 students around the world to gain pharmacy experience in 80 countries.

Participants Dr. Johnson Boampong and Ernest Obese, who traveled to Colorado from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, will be working with CU Pharmacy for the next month to visit pharmacy settings, take part in classes and social activities.

Both plan to take knowledge from CU Pharmacy home as the pharmacy landscape in their country changes. Ghana recently changed degree requirements for practicing pharmacists.

"A PharmD is now a basic requirement to practice pharmacy in Ghana. It used to be a bachelor of pharmacy," Obese said. "We are here on the Pharmabridge program to learn more about how you do your PharmD program."

CU Pharmacy began participating in Pharmabridge in 2015.

As part of the program, the students toured the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and had a chance to see how clinical pharmacy works in the U.S.

Mandic and Poniedzialek both said they would like to see pharmacy's role expand in clinical settings in their countries and shared a passion for the field.

"A pharmacist is not only a cashier in a pharmacy," Poniedzialek said. "It's something more."

Mandic added: "It was fascinating to me that a little pill could change so much and have an impact on the human body. I saw that it has a big impact on people, and it's one of the best ways to help people with health."

Hey, Class of 2023! Let's kick off the year.

Join CU Pharmacy faculty and staff for plenty of burritos, coffee and outdoor games at the Back to School Meet at Greet.

Aug. 6, 2019
10 a.m.-noon
Central Park Pavilion
8801 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.



[RSVP Here](#)

RSVP by Aug. 2 to join in on the fun.



Manager of Instructional Design Lisha Bustos presents at Monash University.

CU Pharmacy team presents digital learning innovations in Italy

CU Pharmacy faculty and staff traveled to Italy in July to take part in the 10th Biennial Monash Pharmacy Education Symposium, where Manager of Instructional Design Lisha Bustos and Director of Assessment Jason Brunner, PhD, presented on how CU Pharmacy ensures academic integrity in an online exam environment.

(Photo courtesy of Proctorio)

Associate Dean for Professional Education Kari Franson, PharmD, PhD, presented on empowering students and the profession through global citizenship, and Director of Practitioner and International Development Jodie Malhotra, PharmD, presented on collaborative global health education research between CU Pharmacy, the Purdue College of Pharmacy and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy.

Stay tuned...

eScripts is getting a new look!

In next month's issue, expect the same content highlighting CU Pharmacy's talented students, faculty, staff, alumni and preceptors with a fresh, new design.

In the News

Check out the CU Pharmacy experts that were featured in the news recently:

- **KDVR: Colorado moving to electronic-only prescriptions** - Executive Director of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Dr. Rob Valuck (Class of 1987) [talked about](#) Colorado moving away from paper prescriptions.
- **The Denver Post: More than a billion prescription opioids streamed into Colorado amid national crisis** - Valuck also [spoke about the opioid crisis](#) with The Denver Post.
- **Medscape: What doctors need to know about the activated charcoal trend** - CU Pharmacy professor and director of masters and certificate programs Dr. David Kroll [discussed the impacts of activated charcoal](#) on patients.
- **The Colorado Sun: Colorado researchers study alcoholism and genetics in humans** - CU Pharmacy Professor Dr. David Radcliffe's [research into alcohol was profiled](#) in this story.
- **Pharmacy Forward: Marijuana Use - Medical, Health and Legal Issues I** - Associate Dean for Professional Education Dr. Kari Franson [spoke with Pharmacy Forward](#) about the medical use of marijuana, THC and CBD.

- **Pharmacy Forward: Medical, Health and Legal Issues II** - Associate Dean for Administration and Operations Dr. Laura Borgelt [talked about recreational marijuana](#) and its potential health consequences.



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