May 2020

eScripts is a monthly newsletter highlighting faculty, staff, students and alumni of the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

CU Pharmacy conferred degrees to 188 students in the school's first-ever virtual ceremony.

Even through the unprecedented change brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, the school community still heard words of thanks and congratulations during the special event.

Graduates include:

- 158 on-campus PharmD graduates
- 21 online PharmD graduates
- 3 PhD graduates
- 6 Integrative Health and Medicine graduates

To honor the graduates, CU Pharmacy created a commencement page that features speeches, thank-you videos and sendoffs from faculty members and staff.
Before commencement, the school shined a light on high-achieving students, alumni and faculty members during the 2020 Awards Convocation Ceremony.

Awardees ranging from students who are just beginning their pharmacy education to an alumnus with decades of experience were honored for their commitment to the profession.

See the list of winners

Dean Ralph Altiere named to international leadership position

University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Dean Ralph Altiere, PhD, is leading pharmacy education on an international scale with a new position with the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

FIP announced Dean Altiere will serve as the interim chair of the FIP Education Initiative (FIPEd), which ensures that pharmacy education provides the foundation for developing pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical services and the profession to meet societal needs for medicine expertise.

Dean Ralph Altiere

Read more

CU Pharmacy hosts COVID-19 CE webinars

In response to rapidly changing information about COVID-19, CU Pharmacy and the Colorado Pharmacists Society are teaming up to answer pressing questions about the
CU Pharmacy is offering continuing education credit for live and recorded versions of **four free webinars**.

All of the webinars have been previously recorded and are available online.

Participate in the webinars by clicking the link below:

Watch the Recordings

Questions can be directed to the Office of Practitioner Development.
**SOP.ContinuingEducation@CUAnschutz.edu**
303-724-4298

**APhA honors CU Pharmacy faculty members**

The American Pharmacists Association recently recognized two faculty members with top awards.

**Professor Joe Saseen, PharmD**, is the recipient of the Daniel B. Smith Practice Excellence Award. The award, established in 1964 to honor the first President of APhA, recognizes outstanding performance and achievements of a community practitioner who has distinguished himself or herself and the profession of pharmacy in the recipient’s community and professional practice setting.

**Assistant Professor Sara Wettergreen, PharmD**, received the Distinguished New Practitioner Award. The award was established in 2010 to recognize an individual new practitioner who has demonstrated distinctive achievements in mentorship, service, and commitment to the profession of pharmacy.

APhA created videos to honor both recipients. Watch them below:

![Joe Saseen](image1)

![Sara Wettergreen](image2)

**Study pinpoints metrics of cost-effective screening for type 1 diabetes**
Assistant Professor Brett McQueen, PhD, was recently in the news for his work as the lead author of a study that pinpoints the metrics of cost-effective screening for type 1 diabetes.

Read our coverage:

Health screenings can catch conditions early, helping patients avoid a condition’s worst consequences or even preventing it from developing altogether. Think of mammograms to catch breast cancer early or high blood pressure screening before a person has a stroke. Screening helps pre-symptomatic patients take actions to reduce their risk of a catastrophic outcome.

Recently, researchers have begun exploring the feasibility of general population screening to identify children and youth at risk for developing type 1 diabetes, where the autoimmune destruction of insulin producing cells can be detected years before onset of extreme hyperglycemia and a life-long dependency on insulin injections.

Read more

ICER presents alternate pricing models of remdesivir as a treatment for COVID-19

In partnership with associate professor Jon Campbell, PhD, the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) released the results of initial analyses to inform public debate of pricing for remdesivir and other future treatments of COVID-19.

Read more
CU Pharmacy Associate Professor Jon Campbell, PhD

Anderson, Aquilante published in genetics journal

Associate Professor Heather Anderson, PhD, and Professor Chris Aquilante, PharmD, recently published research, *The landscape of pharmacogenetic testing in a US managed care population*, in the Genetics in Medicine journal.

Their work used a large insurance claims database to describe the landscape of pharmacogenetic testing in a managed care population and identify the trends of single-gene pharmacogenetic testing between 2013 and 2017.

Read the paper

Photo of the month
Pictured above (L-R): Jenny Scherback – University of Colorado Hospital Clinical Specialist in Medicine; **Dr. Sheryl Vondracek**, PharmD, Associate Professor; Brian Nettles, former student and UCH PGY1 resident. Although not technically on the “front lines” they are busy behind the scenes caring for the non-COVID patients. Dr. Vondracek says, “While we are still rounding with the medicine teams, we are not allowed into patient’s rooms which can make our jobs more challenging. We miss interacting with our patients.”

**CU Pharmacy Thought Leaders**

From evaluating the cost of a COVID-19 drug to sharing insight about rural pharmacies, our CU Pharmacy professionals are in the news:

- **The Pueblo Chieftain**: *Puebloan Jim Sajbel honored by CU school*, feat. Alumnus Jim Sajbel (Class of 1964)
- **630 KHOW**: *Is Remdesivir a great hope?* feat. Professor Joe Saseen, PharmD
- **The Colorado Sun**: *Colorado’s rural pharmacies wrestle against big businesses to remain community cornerstones*, feat. Assistant Dean for Clinical and Professional Affairs Gina Moore, PharmD
• TrialSiteNews: ICER comes up with Remdesivir treatment cost: $4,460 per course of treatment, feat. Associate Professor Jon Campbell, PhD
• Medical Xpress: Study pinpoints metrics of cost-effective screening for type 1 diabetes, feat. Assistant Professor Brett McQueen, PhD