

June 2021

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

Advocacy Efforts Lead to Signing of Colorado Pharmacy Bill



Thanks to the tireless advocacy efforts of the Colorado Pharmacists Society (CPS) and School of Pharmacy leaders, Governor Jared Polis signed the Pharmacy Sunset Bill (SB21-094) last week. The bill greatly expands the scope of practice for pharmacy professionals in Colorado allowing them to provide extended care for their patients and communities.

As part of the signing ceremony, Gov. Polis reaffirmed the importance of pharmacists as frontline health care providers.

Pictured above with Gov. Polis at the official signing are (L-R): Emily Zadvorny, PharmD, CPS Executive Director, State Rep. Dylan Roberts, alumnus Tim Finnegan, PharmD '21, Jennifer Davis, PharmD, SCL Health System Director of Pharmacy and Technology Initiatives, Laura Rang, PharmD, Children's Hospital Specialty Pharmacy, Gina Moore, PharmD, SSPPS Associate Dean for Administration and Operations, Michael Hinnenkamp, PharmD, King Soopers Pharmacy Manager, Emily Kosirog, PharmD, Salud Family Health Center Director of Clinical Pharmacy.

Pharmacy Sunset Bill (SB21-094)

Gleason & Scoular Lead International Webinar



Shaun Gleason, PharmD, MGS, Assistant Director for Distance Degrees and Programs and Sarah Scoular, PharmD '08, represented the School on an international level in a webinar for the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) as part of their COVID-19 Digital Events Series. for taking part in a webinar for FIP, as part of their COVID-19 Digital Events Series. The webinar, “If you knew then what you know now: Sharing and assessing one year of remote and online learning,” was a collaborative effort of ~20 colleagues *and students* from around the world, sharing and learning from each other about the past year’s experiences using remote and online education in response to COVID-19.

[The entire webinar can be viewed here.](#)

DDP Educator of the Year

Assistant Professor Paul Reynolds, PharmD '11, was selected selected as the Distance Degrees and Programs (DDP) Educator of the Year. This award comes from student nominations, such as this one: “There is, however, one special instructor that I would like to mention and express my deepest appreciation to. One who had the most impact on me in this journey. Dr. Paul Reynolds, was an incredible instructor, his teaching methods were extremely impactful, and he was always available and reachable to answer any of my questions, no matter how often I reached out to him.”



Future Pharmacy Researcher Receives Award

Madison Ricco, a fourth-year PharmD candidate, was recently selected by American Foundation for Pharmacy

2021 Gateway to Research Award Recipient

Madison Ricco,
PharmD Candidate, P4



Education (AFPE) Board of Grants and Directors to receive the Gateway to Research Award. Through greater understanding and exposure to research, this program improves students' clinical skills to facilitate better communication with patients and medical team members. [Learn more about AFPE Gateway Awards.](#)

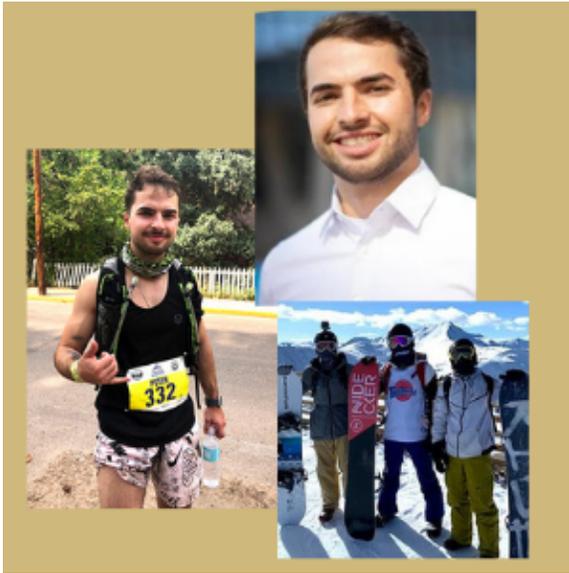
Valuck Selected for ScienceWriters Conference

Professor Robert Valuck, '85, PhD, was selected as one of only two CU Anschutz experts to speak at the national ScienceWriters conference, Oct. 8-11, 2021, in Colorado. An expert in the ongoing opioid crisis, his session will put a national spotlight on the critical role that pharmacy experts and CU Pharmacy play in public health issues. [Learn more about the ScienceWriters2021.](#)



Sports Injury Leads to New Pathway

Just a few years ago, recent graduate Peter Tonsits, PharmD '21, couldn't envision a future in which he was not playing sports. When a soccer injury sent him into full stoppage of nearly all physical activity, he discovered a passion for pharmacy. Now, with his PharmD degree, he has a promising fellowship and a cheerful enthusiasm for advancing the work of pharmacists across the industry. [Read the entire](#)



[story here.](#)

Glode Co-Authors Article

Associate Professor Ashley Glode, PharmD, co-authored the article, "[Key Considerations for Biosimilar Formulary Adoption](#)" in the most recent edition of *Pharmacy Purchasing & Products*. The article addressed the availability of biosimilars that provide cost savings opportunities for hospital pharmacies and the many points to consider when creating a framework for the utilization of biosimilars in clinical practice.



McQueen Moderates Panel

Brett McQueen PhD '13, moderated the discussion "[ISPOR: Baking the Patient Perspective Into Value Assessment](#)," featured in the *Manage Health Executive* digital publication. Dr. McQueen also used his time as a panelist to discuss [multicriteria decision analysis tools](#) for assessing patient perspectives.



New Robotics Equipment Unveiled

CU Pharmacy's new Center for Drug Discovery is starting to take shape. The High-throughput Screening (HTS) and High Content Screening (HCS) robotics equipment was unboxed in the Pharmacy Building after its long journey via cargo ship from Germany. The equipment will serve as the centerpiece of the Center when it officially opens in August 2021.

[Learn more about drug discovery at CU Pharmacy](#) and look for future updates about this new equipment in the new Center.



Alumni Zone



Skaggs School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Alumni Spotlight: Morrison Brown '55 Soda Fountain to Pharmacy Leader

We recently connected with Morrison Brown, a 1955 pharmacy graduate from Cortez, Colorado. He recounts



early exposure to pharmacy by splitting time as a soda jerk at his childhood drugstore and the mentors who advised him to select a career in pharmacy. [Read more about Brown's time as a pharmacy student on the CU Boulder campus and his work as a pharmacy advocate.](#)

Alumni Association Announces 2021 Officers and Board Members

Congratulations to Lokendra Upadhyay, PharmD '18, Jennifer Friend, PharmD '03, Bryan Killam, PharmD '06, and Amy Smendik, PharmD '20 for their selection as new officers and board members within the CU Pharmacy Alumni Association. [Read more about their backgrounds and perspectives on the alumni association.](#)



Home Study Programs with CU Pharmacy

Expand your knowledge this summer by completing home study courses available through the Office of Pharmacy Continuing Education. Over

30 APhA-accredited home study options are available covering topics such as cannabis, infectious diseases, opioid stewardship and motivational interviewing. [Select a topic that interests you and get started here.](#)



New Advanced Diabetes Certificate



CE@CU introduces an Advanced Diabetes Certificate Program: Use of Pattern Management in Tele-Practice. The two-part program (self-study and live-remote) is designed to prepare pharmacists with the knowledge, skills, and practical training to use pattern management and technology to provide patient centered diabetes care. [Click here to register and find out more.](#)

CU Pharmacy Thought Leaders

- **Denver Post:** [Fatal drug overdoses surged 59% in Colorado last year as overall deaths rose during the pandemic](#), feat. Robert Valuck, '85, PhD
- **9News:** [Denver looks for solutions after increase in overdose deaths](#), feat. Robert Valuck, '85, PhD
- **Diabetes in Control:** [Not All Bugs Are Bad: Novel Probiotic Formulation for T2DM](#), feat. Louise Brown, PharmD '20
- **Colorado Newsline:** [Colorado's prescription drug monitoring program lacks oversight and enforcement, auditors find](#), feat. Robert Valuck, '85, PhD

- **Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation:** [Variants in mycophenolate and CMV antiviral drug pharmacokinetic genes and leukopenia in heart transplant recipients](#), feat. Laura Saba, PhD, Robert Page, PharmD, MSPH, Christina Aquilante, PharmD, Kris Oreschak and Kimberly Deininger, both PhD candidates.

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