

March 2021

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

CU Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Celebrates Women's History Month



During the month of March we highlighted just a few of our outstanding women alumni, faculty and students as part of our celebration of Women's History Month. From the first female president of the American Geriatrics Society, to the [President of the American Pharmacists Association](#), we showcased women making a difference in the field. Check out some of the featured highlights on our Facebook page.

See the highlights

Nair Publishes in Neurology



Kavita Nair, PhD, recently published in the online issue of *Neurology*[®], the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Her study of Medicare payments found that over a five-year period, the payments for medications prescribed to people with neurologic conditions like multiple sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease and epilepsy increased by 50% while the number of claims for these prescription medications only rose by 8%. Kavita's study is expected to have policy implications as the American Academy of Neurology is

advocating for price controls on Capitol Hill including supporting Medicare drug pricing negotiation. [Read more about the research here.](#)

McQueen Publishes in PharmacoEconomics-Open

Brett McQueen, PhD, recently published a new study which supports expanding coverage of non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) to pregnant women less than 35 years of age. The study, published in PharmacoEconomics-Open evaluated the impact of an innovative risk-sharing agreement between biotechnology company Illumina, Inc. and insurer Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHH) that opened insurance coverage of NIPT, a simple maternal blood draw which screens for fetal chromosomal disorders. [Read more about the research here.](#)



Jeffres Publishes in JAMA



Meghan Jeffres, PharmD, recently published in the JAMA Surgery Journal. The study, in which Jeffres partnered with researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital and University of Porto in Portugal, indicates that most surgical patients with a history of penicillin allergy can safely be given the guideline-recommended antibiotic cefazolin to prevent infection instead of alternatives antibiotics that are less effective and more expensive. The researchers reported that the frequency of allergies to both penicillins and cefazolin was so small that most patients should receive cefazolin regardless of their allergy history. [Read more about the research here.](#)

Reigan Receives Research Grant

Phil Reigan, PhD, received a \$40,000 grant from the Denver-based Michele Plachy-Rubin Fund for Pilot Grants in Brain Cancer Research. Phil, along with Michael Graner, PhD, will use the grant to examine the role of a protein called thymidine phosphorylase (TP) in glioblastoma, the most common brain tumor in adults. They believe that disrupting TP activity could sensitize tumor cells to improve the effectiveness of temozolomide, a chemotherapy drug that is part of first-line therapy for patients with glioblastoma. [Read the entire story here.](#)



Experiential Team Creates Innovative Service Learning Program



Dana Hammer, PharmD, and Patty Meyer, both with the School's Experiential Office, developed an innovative program to ensure P1 students receive service learning experience during the pandemic. The program is called COAST-IT, Connecting Older Adults to Students through Interprofessional Telecare. Through the program, first-year pharmacy students are matched with older adults with the goal of developing relationships, allowing the students to practice their communication skills, and breaking the cycle of isolation for older adults increasingly spending their days physically distanced from the outside world during a pandemic. [Read the entire story here.](#)

Archer Awarded Public Health Service Honor

P4 Jace Archer has been awarded the United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award. This award was established to recognize pharmacy students that make significant contributions to public health including advancing objectives of Healthy People 2030, the Surgeon General's priorities and the pharmacy profession.



Hari Wins Distinguished Carl Smith Award



Ashwini Sri Hari, PhD Toxicology candidate, recently won the Carl Smith award from the Mechanisms Specialty section at the Society of Toxicology. This is an extremely competitive award. Ashwini works in Dr. Manisha Patel's Lab. Jared Brown, PhD, serves as the Toxicology Program Director; James Roede, PhD, is the Associate Program Director. It's worth noting that this is the second year in a row that CU Skaggs has won this distinguished award.

CU Skaggs Team to Compete in AMCP Finals

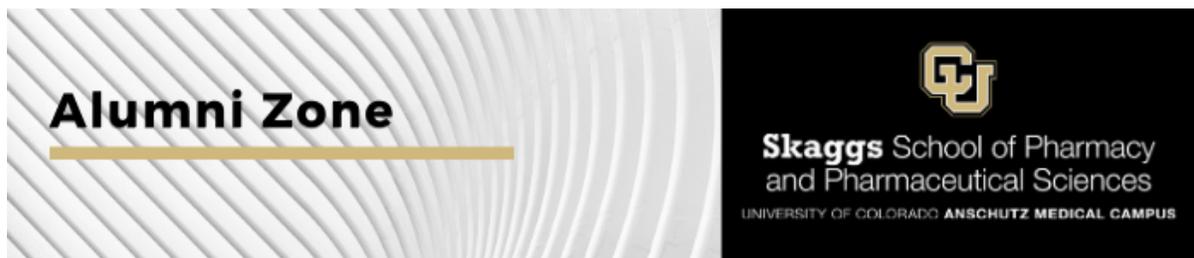
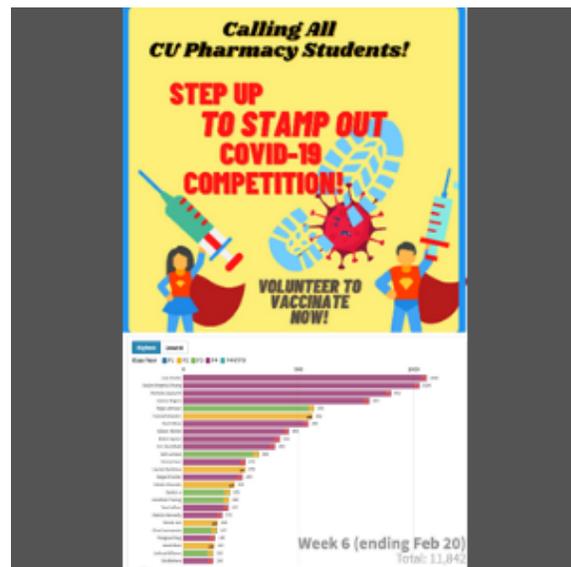
This month, the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Studies Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) student chapter competed in the AMCP Foundation's Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Competition and made it to the final round. They will be competing against 8 other teams at the National P&T Competition, to be held during the AMCP (virtual) Annual Meeting the week of April 12. There are typically 60-70 student teams competing for these top 9 spots. The team representing CU Skaggs at nationals is: Nassim Ijadi (P4), Shelley



Park (P2), Toral Shah (P2), Jenni Mun (P2), and Alexandra Sims (P1) and their faculty advisor is Heather Anderson, PharmD.

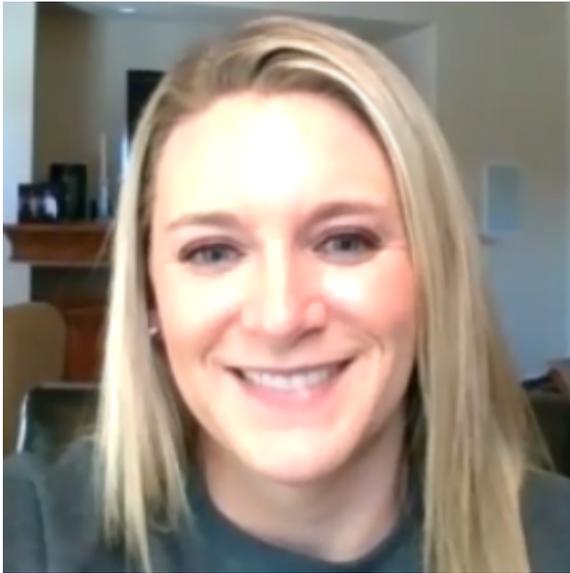
Students Step Up to Stamp Out Covid

All semester long, pharmacy students are competing to see who can give the most COVID-19 vaccinations. So far, students have administered over 26,000 vaccines! Some students are P4s on hospital rotations, some students are P1s vaccinating for the first time, but all are future pharmacists who understand the critical role that they are playing to eradicate the COVID-19 virus. **Totals will be updated every Friday, so check back often to see who is in the lead.**



CU Pharmacy Alumna Draws From Personal Experience to Treat Neurology Patients with Compassion

Felecia Hart's own diagnosis with multiple sclerosis (MS) provided a roadmap in helping others with



neurological conditions. Hart always had a passion for health care solutions to MS, and a chance opportunity provided the outlet for her to combine that passion with her PharmD. She currently works for Novartis, a pharmaceutical company in Fort Collins, CO as a medical science liaison.

[Read the full story here](#)



Happy & Healthy Hour is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 7, 5-6 p.m. MDT**

"Incorporating Equity into Professional Practice and Everyday Life"

This presentation is focused on promoting equitable development as a practical approach for meeting the needs of underserved communities through policies and programs that reduce disparities, both in professional practice and everyday life.

Cynthia Hazel, DrPH, MSc, DrPH '19 Alumna, Colorado School of Public Health Researcher at the OMNI Institute

[Click to register](#)

Join the CU Skaggs Alumni Board

Nominate yourself or a fellow alumnus to join the Alumni Board. Deadline for nominations is **Friday, April 30**. [Click here for the registration form.](#)

Take a seat on the board

We need your leadership

Nominate yourself or another CU Pharmacy alumnus to join the Alumni Board this year.

Deadline for nominations: Friday, April 30

April Alumni Forum: Innovations in Pharmacy

One of the CU Pharmacy Alumni Association's newest featured offerings is the Alumni Forum, which highlights innovations and new trends in the field of pharmacy. Our special guest presenter for this round will be faculty member, Dr. Katy Trinkley, PharmD, PhD, presenting on "**Innovations in Technology and the Changing Practice of Pharmacy**".

Date: Tuesday, April 6

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Zoom



[Click to register](#)

Job Openings in Handshake for CU Pharmacy Alums

1. To create a Handshake account, select the type of account you would like to create:

- **Alumni seeking career opportunities**

[Handshake: Sign Up as an Alumnus](#)

[Alumni: Handshake User](#)



Guides, Searching Jobs,
Building a Network!

- **Alumni who would like to share a job or internship vacancy within your existing employer.**

Handshake: Sign Up as an Employer

Employer: Handshake Company Profile, Posting Jobs, and More

2. Complete your profile and use your account

Nominate an Alumnus for the 2021 Alumni Awards

Pharmacy Alumni Association honors alumni in recognition of their contributions to the practice of pharmacy or demonstrated major accomplishments in professional pharmacy practice or significant contributions in pharmaceutical research and development. Because you are in a unique position to remember these exceptional pharmacy professionals, the CU Pharmacy Alumni Association seeks your help in identifying alumni for their renown and merit. [Click here to begin the nomination process.](#)



Beverly Brunson Diversity Scholarship

The Beverly Brunson Diversity Scholarship Crowdfunding Campaign is in full swing and has already generated more than \$10,000. [Use this link to make a gift, leave a message, and see a map of where the gifts are coming from.](#) Watch Beverly describe what



motivated her to start this scholarship [here](#).

CU Pharmacy Thought Leaders

- **Psychiatric News:** [To Improve Safety in Older Patients, Consider Deprescribing](#), feat. Danielle Fixen, Pharm.D., B.C.G.P., B.C.P.S
- **LexBlog:** [CBD and Hemp Legal and Regulatory Roundup](#), feat. Danielle Fixen, Pharm.D., B.C.G.P., B.C.P.S
- **Drugs.com:** [Surgical Patients Allergic to Penicillin Have Another Safe Alternative](#), feat. Meghan Jeffres, Pharm.D.
- **WBOC:** [Illumina and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Real-World Evidence Study Demonstrates Cost-Effectiveness of Offering NIPT to All Pregnant Women](#), feat. Brett McQueen, PhD.

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