



CPS Member Spotlight

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1. What is your favorite thing about being a CPS member?

Being part of the change! Whether it is helping to design a new website for CPS, participating in the programming committee's activities to plan the Annual and Winter Meetings, or advocating for practice changes in Colorado...I love to be in the room where change is happening. The Colorado Pharmacists Society has undergone many advancements in the past 18 months with State Association Management support from the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) including modernizing the Society bylaws, adopting a detailed budget, creating a highly functional website to better support member needs, all while continuing to host two annual meetings. I couldn't be more proud to serve alongside the dedicated and hardworking CPS Board of Directors, Past Presidents, academy and committee chairs, and member volunteers!

All of these advancements were made to position CPS to serve all of our member's needs and to continue supporting pharmacy practice advancement in Colorado. I am very excited for upcoming pharmacy practice changes in Colorado pursuant to Senate Bill 16-135 including creation of statewide protocols and opportunities for pharmacists to participate in collaborative practice agreements.

2. How did you get introduced to the world of pharmacy?

A friend of the family is a pharmacist and she encouraged me to work for her at the local hospital my junior year of high school. The following year I worked for the hospital's outpatient, community pharmacy. I was mesmerized by how the doctors in the hospital implemented Shirley's recommendations in their patients' treatment plans and how the community pharmacy patients valued and followed Tom's recommendations! After those summers as a pharmacy clerk, I knew pharmacy was the career for me and never looked back.

The practice of pharmacy in rural, northeastern Montana is different in many ways than what I do now as a pharmacist working in a district clinical manager roll. However, my roots in community pharmacy help me focus on advancing pharmacy practice in all practice settings to improve patient access to care, as well as improve patient outcomes.

3. How did you get to where you are in your career?

Hard work, perseverance, and supportive family and friends!

I received my PharmD from the University of Montana in 2011, completed a Community Pharmacy PGY1 Residency with the University of Colorado in 2013, and received BPS Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2014. I then went on to work as a pharmacy manager before my current role as a Pharmacy Patient Care Coordinator for King Soopers.

Where I am in my career is due mainly to hard work. Regardless how long it takes, I will work until the job is done well. Another key to where I am in my career is refusing to take no for an answer. I've been told 'No' to programs for medication synchronization, diabetes education, adolescent immunizations, public health statewide protocols like influenza testing and treatment. Some have come to fruition...some have not which just means we need to continue to work hard to advocate for pharmacist services. Pharmacists are underutilized in the health care system, and I often say it is my personal mission to 'change the world.' Many insurance plans say no to reimbursing pharmacists for services and current regulations don't allow pharmacists to provide needed patient care services. To me, that just means we need to work harder for regulation changes and to be included in patient's insurance networks. Just because pharmacists are not fully utilized in all health care settings today doesn't mean we can't continue to advocate, train, and prepare pharmacists for the future pharmacy practice opportunities.

I wouldn't be able to continue pushing forward without the support of my family and friends who listen to my passionate rants about pharmacy and live with my unconventional working hours filled with after-hours Board and committee meetings.

4. What does a typical work day look like for you?

The best part of my job is no two days are alike. As a Pharmacy Patient Care Coordinator, I am responsible for clinical operations in 34 west-Denver King Soopers pharmacies. My daily activities vary from in-store pharmacist coaching on our clinical services (adolescent and adult immunizations, diabetes education, health screenings, and medication therapy management), to designing and teaching ACPE accredited programs to support new and existing programs, to administering vaccines at off-site clinics, to precepting pharmacy residents, and to staffing alongside our excellent pharmacy teams to stay grounded in community pharmacy.

5. How do you give back to the profession?

I give back to pharmacy as an active member of the Colorado Pharmacists Society and American Pharmacists Association. While pharmacists may not feel they can make a difference on their own, when we join together in the Colorado Pharmacists Society we can be a voice and driving force for change for all pharmacists in Colorado!

6. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love to travel! My goal is to visit every country before the end. My next trip will include Romania, Hungary, and the Czech Republic this fall!

When I'm not globetrotting, I like listening to audiobooks while walking my dog, Lady...and spending time with my friends and family.