



CPS Member Spotlight

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CPS Board Member

What is your favorite thing about being a CPS member?

What I love the most about the Colorado Pharmacist Society (CPS) is that we represent all areas of pharmacy across multiple generations. I have met some incredibly smart and talented people, and have learned more about the different roles pharmacist play throughout the state of Colorado. I am excited to see how the practice of pharmacy will advance with the next generation of pharmacists.

How did you get introduced to the world of pharmacy?

By accident....when I first moved to Colorado in 1990, I was a transfer from California with a major in psychology without a long-term goal in mind. I didn't know anything about pharmacy until my parents and I took a wrong turn, and accidentally walked into the school of pharmacy building where we met Shirley Lucas. She befriended my parents and I, and convinced me to try out pharmacy. My life would be very different if we hadn't took that wrong turn during our first days in Colorado.

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

I took every opportunity I was offered, and did not walk away when a door was opened to me. My trail to an Acute Care Pharmacy manager was not through a traditional pharmacy pathway. I started my career as a Pharmacy Specialist in Ortho, Neuro and Rehab in a hospital pharmacy when I first graduated with a bachelor's degree, then went back for my PharmD with every intention of going back to the hospital after graduation. But I was approached by a think outside of the box pharmacy manager, who asked me if I was up for the challenge in starting a first-ever Prevention Pharmacy residency. During my residency, I had the privilege of writing a grant with a nationally known physician in vaccine safety. Over 7 years at Kaiser Permanente Colorado, I was a project manager / co-investigator on a CDC Vaccine Safety grant, research pharmacy specialist and vaccine trials supervisor. When it was time for me to move on and out of research, I spent a year at Micromedex as a project manager, another year at a small continuing medical education company as a Clinical Associate Director, and then finally to where I am today at Denver Health. Even at Denver Health, I have worn multiple hats within the pharmacy department.

My advice to anyone coming out of pharmacy school is keep an open mind; walk through the doors which open to you; there are so many opportunities to do very innovative things in pharmacy.

What do you enjoy about being a pharmacist?

I enjoy practicing in a profession where I am valued as an essential part of the healthcare team. Being a pharmacist today means that I get to learn something new every day, and ultimately contribute to the improvement of care for patients.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I think it is essential to keep work-life balance – I love being active; enjoy the outdoors (rock climbing,

running, biking, hiking, skiing and camping); enjoy cooking and eating good food; enjoy exploring the world, and making new memories with family and friends.