



CPS Member Spotlight

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What is your favorite thing about being a CPS member?

I moved to Colorado to work at the University of Colorado in 2014. By joining CPS I was able to reestablish a network of peers across multiple healthcare systems. After joining the CE committee these relationships developed into collaborations and friendships. Often times our career networks consist only of people we work with or those with similar skill sets. I love knowing I can reach out to folks at Kaiser, Regis, King Soopers, and Safeway just to name a few.

How did you get introduced to the world of pharmacy?

One of my first jobs was at McRae's Pharmacy in Lander Wyoming. At 14, my best friend Cara McRae and I were hired to dust shelves and gift wrap during Christmas. Tony and Connie McRae recognized our efforts and continued to move us up the corporate ladder to stocker, cashier, and ultimately photo developer. During my tenure at McRae's Pharmacy I watched Tony be a consistent source of knowledge for our small town as well as the pharmacy students he precepted. He remains a role model.

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

The curriculum vitae version of my career is pharmacy school at the University of Wyoming, PGY1 at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City Utah, PGY2 in infectious diseases at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis Missouri, faculty at Roseman University College of Pharmacy in Las Vegas Nevada, and faculty at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The two years between infectious diseases residency and faculty at Roseman was full of poor career choices and failed job interviews. I did not know I was supposed to be a teacher so I never investigated this option. My mother was a middle school English teacher and made me and my sister swear we would avoid a career in teaching. Perhaps I would have figured it out sooner had she breastfed me for more than three weeks...

What does a typical work day look like for you?

Twenty-five percent of my time is spent on service. This means I take care of patients that have been admitted to the hospital in conjunction with internal medicine physicians. We have two jobs – patient care and educating medical and pharmacy residents and students to do the same. The rest of my time is split between classroom teaching and research. I teach infectious diseases, global health, and clinical reasoning and decision making where my goal is to reinvent the way students interact with information. The remaining hours get spent writing – grants, manuscripts, abstracts – many of which get rejected, making the acceptances all that much sweeter.

How do you give back to the profession?

Beyond molding the minds of future pharmacists, I create what feels like heaps of continuing education programming. I hope to encourage curiosity and scientific inquiry in all audiences.