



## CPS Member Spotlight

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

As with most professional societies, you get out what you put in – and more. For that reason, I am an active member in Colorado Pharmacists Society (CPS) and its affiliated parent association, the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP).

At the state level, I am serving CPS as Chair of its Legislative Committees and President-Elect for the ASHP affiliate Academy of Health-system Pharmacists (CPS-AHP). I am also serving as Chair of Colorado Pharmacy Coalition (CPC), which is operated by CPS. Members of CPC include all organizations representing pharmacy or having an interest in pharmacy matters or issues. Legislation, regulatory issues and other health care issues affecting pharmacy are discussed at each monthly meeting and consensus is sought so that pharmacy speaks with one voice. CPC has served me not only as a forum for advancing the profession, but also as a resource for pharmacy matters.

This year, the combined efforts of CPC with a Provider Status Task Force have resulted in the passage of Colorado Senate Bill 16-135, “concerning a pharmacist’s provision of health care services that have been delegated by another health care provider,” which is an important step in achieving what might generally be referred to ‘pharmacist provider status.’ Congratulations again to the Provider Status Task Force and all those involved!

For our CPS parent affiliate, I am completing my role as Chair of for the Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers (ASHP-SPPM). I have also served ASHP as Chair of the Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers Educational Steering Committee, Chair of ASHP’s Council on Pharmacy Management, and as Program Chair at many Midyear programs. I feel that both CPS and ASHP membership has provided me with a vital support network that has facilitated my professional development. I have been able to connect with a talented and diverse membership willing to share ideas and learn from each other. A major benefit of ASHP involvement is the ability to align the impact of our state organization activities. As Author Patrick Lencioni once wrote, “If you could get all of the people in your organization rowing in the same direction, you could dominate any industry, any market against any competition.” For this reason, my involvement with CPS, CPC, and ASHP has allowed me to positively impact the practice of pharmacy on a broad scale.

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

I did not start out on a path with intent to be a pharmacist. My strengths in math and chemistry led me to a decision to pursue either Chemical Engineering or Pharmacy when entering college. Mentors suggested that Chemical Engineering would allow me to choose Pharmacy if desired at a later date, whereas a switch from Pharmacy to Chemical Engineering would not be as straightforward. During my investigation of the engineering profession, I found that Chemical Engineers make great spouses; I am happily married to a Chemical Engineer. After introductory courses for Chemical Engineering, however, my growing desire to work with more people ignited a transition to the School of Pharmacy and practical experiences as a pharmacy technician and nuclear pharmacy research technician. My practical experiences working with people and the challenge of complex health care issues led me to pharmacy, health system pharmacy administration, and more recently healthcare compliance.

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

I received my Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin in 2004. Upon graduation I completed a 2 year combined Pharmacy Administration Residency / Masters Program at the University of Wisconsin Hospital, earning a Master of Science in Health System Pharmacy Administration from the University of Wisconsin in 2006. At the

completion of my residency, I assumed the position of Manager, Pharmacy Operations at the Presbyterian campus of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and was appointed Adjunct Instructor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. My oversight included central pharmacy operations, pharmacy automation and robotics, operating room pharmacy satellites, storage and security of controlled substances, and renovation of the central pharmacy. At the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy I lectured on a variety of topics including leadership, finance, quality improvement and pharmacy automation. Additionally, I completed my Six Sigma Green Belt Training from Motorola University, attended the Pharmacy Leadership Institute at Boston University in 2010, and completed a Master of Studies degree in Law from the University of Pittsburgh. The ongoing pursuit for knowledge and challenge brought me to Denver, Colorado, where I became responsible for pharmacy services throughout Denver Health's 525-bed Academic Level 1 Trauma Center and network of clinics while working for Maxor National Pharmacy Services. Maxor afforded me the opportunity to take on responsibility for corporate compliance and an inpatient pharmacy services portfolio throughout the Amarillo, Texas based enterprise, which includes satellite offices and pharmacies in 14 states.

#### **4. How do you give back to the profession?**

I am fortunate for the opportunities that mentors have given me and realize that I can't pay all of it back – I must pay it forward. Precepting students and residents is therefore of utmost importance to me for giving back to the profession. I've taught and mentored dozens of residents in both Post Graduate Year 1 and Year 2 Management Rotations over the past decade. In addition to taking students for Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) upon arriving in Denver, I was also honored to serve and continue to serve as a Regis University School of Pharmacy Advisory Board member to share perspectives on the profession. My involvement guiding student teaching continues to grow with my Affiliate Faculty position at Regis University

Also related to the importance of mentoring others to advance our profession, I have hired and mentored several new practitioners into formal leadership roles. Investing in these leaders is benefiting the profession both locally and nationally. Further, technician education and training is also a way I'm able to pay it forward and support our profession. Education and training of technicians was an early passion, which was captured in a book chapter I wrote to support technician competency and advancement. Today, my roles with Colorado Pharmacist Society and Colorado Pharmacy Coalition continues to advance technician registration and licensure. More recently, my job provides me the opportunity to implement and improve formal technician training programs. This has put me in touch with technician training program leadership who are constantly working with me to advance our programs together.

Last, but not comprehensive of my dedication to education in all forms, I always look forward to educating the public. In addition to several television appearances where I was called on as an expert in health-system pharmacy, this has also positioned me as a resource for senate's questions regarding health-system pharmacies. My consistent lobbying and advocacy efforts are paying dividends for the profession. In lobbying for national pharmacist provider status year after year, senators have made time to discuss this bill, as well as other inquiries about our past engagements and the needs of our profession. I carry this experience forward into the classroom to help students and future leaders know that your legislators will listen, persistence is a virtue, and grassroots lobbying will lead to acknowledgment of pharmacists as health care providers.

#### **5. In your opinion, what is the most rewarding part of practicing pharmacy in Colorado?**

Colorado is a mecca of great training and education programs for pharmacy and I'm blessed to have my current opportunities to be closely involved with Regis University and the development of leaders in the Jesuit Catholic Tradition. Regis nurtures the life of the mind and the pursuit of truth within an environment conducive to effective teaching, learning and personal development. Regis University is consistently analyzing its approach to higher education and updating classrooms and facilities. By working with faculty such as myself who have real-world experience and stay current on the latest trends in industry, as well as taking advantage of learning labs and internships, students understand how their knowledge can be applied to real world situations.

I've especially enjoyed learning how to be a more effective teacher using Team-Based Learning (TBL), a relatively new teaching method in the field of pharmacy education that has a widespread history of proven success in medical and business schools. I've developed a TBL course on Pharmacy Law from the ground up, and continuing to instruct the entire pharmacy law curriculum accordingly. During class, I have the opportunity to provide relevant activities for

students, to apply gained knowledge with their teammates, to apply course content and concepts. I also continue to guest lecturing in Pharmacy Leadership & Management courses for students at all stages of their education.

Last, Denver now ranks No. 1 on U.S. News & World Report's list of the 2016 Best Places to Live. U.S. News analyzed 100 cities based on quality of life, job market, as well as the value of living there and people's desire to live there. It is a great place to call home, and provides direct flight access to the majority of sites in my company's national footprint.

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

I love to mountain bike, and also enjoy getting on the road bike with pharmacists throughout the city, state, and visitors from throughout the country. Let's get out for a ride!