

Thank you everyone, I am so excited and honored to be the next President of CPS. I wish we could be together in person today, but as COVID continues in 2020 we will have to remain flexible with how a state organization will support our members, and continue to be innovative in meeting your needs, and this is the first test :). More than ever, we need to engage our members to help solve problems and get through this crisis together. You will hear a lot of common themes from the town hall this morning, my goal this year is to continue building (or like Emily said, growing our garden) on the great things we have accomplished in the last few years as well as take advantage of the recent publicity from groups like CDPHE, CMS and other national organizations that have highlighted the value of pharmacy to support the healthcare system as a whole.

There is so much going on in pharmacy and in Colorado and so many good things that can be done, but there are 3 main areas where I would like to focus the energy of CPS in the upcoming year: membership, legislative efforts, and networking - including the further expansion of opportunities to all corners of the state so we can connect and share with each other more. I think all of these initiatives are critical, but networking is especially important to help withstand the risks of burnout in our profession and create a resilient workforce that can support each other in times of need like COVID or just the stressors of everyday life in an ever changing healthcare environment.

Focusing on our first priority, it is important to remember that CPS is an almost 100% volunteer organization and we rely on membership support to not only run operations, but to provide the crucial perspective and expertise needed for CPS to truly be THE voice of pharmacy in Colorado. One of my goals in 2020 is

to continue to strengthen our membership, one day wouldn't it be awesome to know that every pharmacist in our state is a member of CPS? (don't worry Mike, I won't set this as your 2020 goal :)). I would challenge everyone attending the meeting today to reach out to at least 1 colleague or pharmacy friend and encourage them to join CPS. Share with others the benefits that you have seen from your membership and remind prospective members that we need their unique viewpoints to help us grow and expand the reach of pharmacy in the state. As we heard Emily and Gina mention earlier today, in the last year, CPS has played a key role in many state initiatives including, advocacy at the capital, payment for non-dispensing services, expanding scope of pharmacy services to provide more fulfilling future careers for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, monitoring threats to our profession so we can intervene and advise decision makers early and often and last but not least supporting all facets of pharmacy through the COVID-19 crisis by providing information and resources to those on the front line. Membership is so critical to help us further these causes and the CPS mission of bettering the profession and patient care. I hope to see an increase in membership this year, but more importantly, I hope to see more new faces attending the winter and annual meetings (of course I hope to continue seeing all of you as well), more active participation in academies, including monthly meetings as well as networking and service events and I would be thrilled to receive a flood of new ideas from all members on how CPS can meet your needs in order to continue to grow and thrive for years to come. HINT, HINT, look for a survey later this fall.

My second priority for the year is a continued focus on our legislative efforts. In the town hall we shared some of the work that has happened at the

capitol this year (and hopefully you can join the session tomorrow at 9:30 am to hear the Legislative and Regulatory Updates), but there is still work to be done! When it comes to legislative priorities, CPS is in great hands with Gina, Emily and Katie. We are not only recognized at the capitol, but well respected and often consulted early in the law-making process. We have had many members who have testified on the behalf of our profession in the state, leading to success with many initiatives. One big focus this year will be the sunset of our Colorado Pharmacy Practice Act. This is our opportunity to “update” the practice of pharmacy regulation to better meet the needs of a changing healthcare system. The first round of documentation was submitted a few weeks ago, but there will be ongoing work through next year when the draft bill is introduced in early 2021. It will be key that we continue the efforts to ensure as many important improvements as possible are made.

Last, but not least, I want to make sure the CPS network includes the entire state of Colorado. We have worked this year to implement technology like Zoom and wireless conference phones to help expand our reach to the Western Slope, Colorado Springs and Fort Collins. If you live or work in one of these areas (or others not mentioned) and want more information on how to connect, please let us know. As Maxie mentioned, the Academy of Healthsystem Pharmacists has over doubled attendance to monthly meetings by offering a call in and video option and the transition to virtual meetings during COVID was a breeze. We hope over the next year, all academies can share the same technology as well as some cross-academy networking and service projects including an all academy wellness event that you heard Sarah mention during ANP report out. We participated in a few other service events this year and are looking forward to

more in the future; The Academy of Community Pharmacists helped feed the homeless at the Denver Rescue Mission and CPS as a whole did a trail clean up outside of Dillon. Not only do these activities help serve our communities, they are a great way to meet other pharmacy colleagues and network across different areas. I encourage us all to find more ways in the upcoming year to volunteer time for those in need.

In closing, I am looking forward to a great year as president of CPS, and I hope we can work together to expand our membership in order to promote and advocate for the profession we all love. CPS has continued to grow and develop over the last 5 + years that I have served on the board of directors and I can't wait to be part of what's to come in the future.

Thank you.