



**Department of
Pharmacy Practice**



Pharmacy students interact with patients as part of teams in community health centers.

Pharmacy Practice at UConn

Pharmacy Innovation Rooted in Caring and Community

UConn School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmacy Practice impacts patient health and well-being worldwide by combining scholarly excellence with public engagement and community-based research and practice partnerships.

Students learn from faculty and preceptors that not only teach students but also conduct research and provide patient care on health care teams in hospitals, clinics, accountable care organizations, and community pharmacies

throughout the State of Connecticut and beyond. This active connection with patients provides students with invaluable opportunities to apply learning to real world challenges.

Beyond the classroom, our faculty are integrally involved in national and state pharmacy organizations, federal and state agencies, and the legislature. These connections help us to identify issues and create and test new paradigms in care through our scholarship.

The UConn School of Pharmacy in Storrs.



Championing Wellness Through Public Engagement

As the State of Connecticut's flagship public university, UConn is committed to community service. The School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmacy Practice, and our pharmacy students are major contributors. Four of our faculty have received the UConn Provost's Award for Public Engagement in the last 10 years.

Faculty and students actively support:

- *Multilingual mobile care clinics.* These clinics serve the health care needs of uninsured migrant farm workers, homeless patients, and low-income long-term care patients.
- *Community based organizations.* We partner with community health workers and other health professionals to provide patients access to pharmacy services and holistic health care.
- *Community health centers in urban settings.* Interdisciplinary teams of students and faculty from pharmacy,

nursing, medical, and dental medicine work together in inner city settings to better understand social determinants of health and how to best engage diverse and economically disadvantaged patients.

- *Community education.* Community health events include blood pressure screenings, or educational talks at senior centers, soup kitchens, high schools, health fairs, and community centers.
- *Communication of critical information.* We engage the community through consumer facing television, radio, online, and print media. Our faculty have been interviewed for stories covered on the BBC, NBC Nightly News, Good Morning America, The Dr. Oz Show, WNPR, Public Television, *Huffington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Vogue*, and many more.



Professor of Pharmacy Practice Michael White, right, on-air with Fox 61 News host Tim Lammers in December 2019.

Leadership in Pharmacy Practice — Advocating for Policy and Practice Change

UConn School of Pharmacy faculty are influential advocates for new models of care. Some of the concerns we have addressed include problems associated with polypharmacy, medication errors, and patient compliance. Among the organizations faculty have held leadership roles in are:

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- American Pharmacists Association
- Hematology Oncology Pharmacists Association
- American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
- American College of Clinical Pharmacy

We have also worked closely with the state governor's office, and state agencies like the Department of Public Health and Department of Social Services, and the legislature in Connecticut to help assess, define and craft changes in the healthcare system over the years.

By providing our knowledge and support, we ensure that the State of Connecticut has the tools it needs to function effectively and expand opportunities for pharmacists to improve patient care.

A pharmacy student takes a blood pressure reading during Pharmacy Day at the State Capitol in Hartford.



The PRISM group hosts a continuing education class on administering long acting injectable anti psychotics.



Professor Diana Sobieraj presents her award winning asthma research to pharmacy students.

Pharmacy Practice Research

The Department of Pharmacy Practice oversees two collaborative outcomes research groups: Health Outcomes, Policy, and Evidence-Synthesis (HOPES); and Performance Improvement for Safe Medication Management (PRISM). These groups study and analyze public health data and make medication and care pathway recommendations.

HOPES

HOPES is comprised of UConn School of Pharmacy faculty members that evaluate the benefits and adverse effects of drugs, devices, natural products, and procedures against each other.

The group promotes evidence-based practice by determining which drugs, devices, dietary supplements, and procedures have the best balance of benefits to adverse events. Physicians, health systems, governmental agencies, medical societies, healthcare payors, and patients need this information to make optimal health decisions.

We have worked with the following federal agencies in an effort to assist public health decisions:

- U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Medicare Services (CMS)
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC)
- American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM)
- Heart Rhythm Society (HRS)

As experts we have advised on the proper use and safety of:

- Heart medications, devices, and procedures
- Oral anticoagulants
- Asthma medications
- Mental health drugs in geriatric patients
- Dietary supplements
- Drugs of abuse

PRISM

PRISM is comprised of a group of faculty and outside pharmacists that conceptualize, establish and evaluate new models of health care with a focus on the role of a pharmacist.

PRISM's goal is to improve medication effectiveness, safety and care efficiency and lies at the intersection of community engaged research, policy, and clinical care.

Faculty and students envision and investigate new models of care that include or expand the role of the pharmacist and test their value in the real world.

PRISM's work has paved the way for the legislative change and education required to allow pharmacists to provide:

- Immunizations. Pharmacists are now the second most common providers of immunizations in Connecticut and a prime place that patients who are uninsured or underinsured can go.

- Long-acting antipsychotic drug injections. We have also trained dozens of pharmacists in community pharmacies across the state to provide these injections. This is a safety net for them and for society.

We are pioneering:

- The pharmacist/community health worker team in communities with health disparities in the United States and remote villages overseas.
- The use of eConsults where a pharmacist supports the doctors and nurses by videoconference with remote access to electronic health records.
- The assessment of community pharmacy workflow to maximize pharmacist patient interaction.

Find more information and faculty contacts online at pharmacy.uconn.edu.



Professor Adrian Hernandez Diaz teaches students how to assess a diabetic foot in the School's CVS Pharmacist Care Center (practice lab).



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PHA 009-FY20