



# **Department of Pharmacy Practice**



Faculty certify students to provide immunizations in the community, providing a vital safety net.





# Pharmacy Practice at UConn

## Pharmacy Innovation Rooted in Caring and Community

**U**Conn 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.

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont applauds faculty who helped create regulations allowing pharmacist prescribed hormonal contraception and created the certification program.



## Championing Wellness Through Public Engagement

**A**s 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. Five of our faculty members and a student-faculty team have been honored through the University's Provost's Awards for Excellence in Community Engaged Scholarship. We received the Weaver award for public engagement from AACP in 2021 and were selected by the Hartford Business Journal as Health Care Heroes in 2022.

### **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 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.
- *Confronting opioid epidemic.* Faculty and students have trained over 1,000 people to properly use naloxone and fentanyl test strips and educated substance control officers, poison control centers, legislators, and consumers about "gas station heroin" and xylazine adulterated fentanyl products.
- *Community education.* Community health events including health and medication screenings as well as educational talks at cultural events, senior centers, soup kitchens, high schools, 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, and PBS, and in the Huffington Post, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Newsweek, Vogue, and many more.
- We are among the top schools of pharmacy in media reach across the globe with a total media reach of over 6 billion.





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

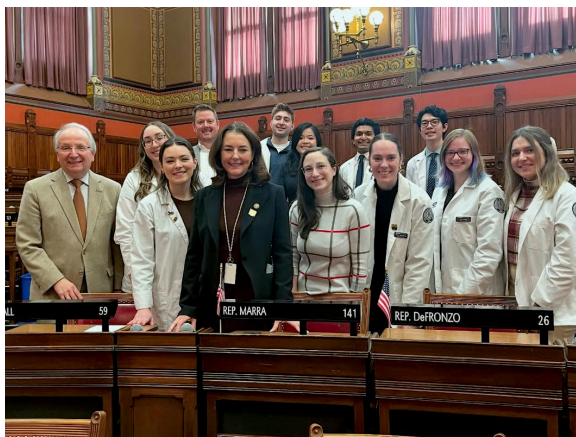
**U**Conn School of Pharmacy faculty are influential advocates for new models of care. Some of the concerns we have addressed include problems associated with polypharmacy, medication errors, and medication adherence. Faculty have held leadership roles in organizations including the:

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

- American College of Clinical Pharmacy
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

We have also worked closely with the governor's office; state agencies such as the Office of Health Strategy and the departments of Public Health, Consumer Protection, and Social Services; and the Connecticut legislature to help assess, define, and craft changes in the health care 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.



Clinical professor Sean Jeffery and Dean Philip Hritcko bring UConn students to meet with state Rep. Tracy Marra and Comptroller Sean Scanlon.



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





Professors Kristin Waters and Cassandra Doyno use SimMan so students can see real time hemodynamic effects of drugs and engage in realistic clinical scenarios.





Faculty train students in proper dispensing with cutting-edge counseling techniques.



## Pharmacy Practice Research

**T**he 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 create data that impact public health decisions as well as medication and care pathway recommendations. Faculty have nationally recognized excellence in several specific types of outcomes research, publishing in journals such as JAMA, Annals of Internal Medicine, Circulation, Diabetes Care, and Health Affairs.

### Research Techniques Used:

#### Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

- Adrian Hernandez, MD, Ph.D.
- C. Michael White, Pharm.D.
- Diana Sobieraj, Pharm.D.
- William Baker, Pharm.D.
- Craig Coleman, Pharm.D.

#### Observational Research (Propensity Score and Multivariable Logistic Regression)

- Craig Coleman, Pharm.D.
- William Baker, Pharm.D.
- Diana Sobieraj, Pharm.D.

#### Clinical Trials

- Nathaniel Rickles, Pharm.D.
- C. Michael White, Pharm.D.
- William Baker, Pharm.D.
- Marie Smith, Pharm.D.

#### Surveys and Focus Groups

- Marie Smith, Pharm.D.
- Stephanie Gernant, Pharm.D.
- Chinenye Anyanwu, Pharm.D.
- Diana Sobieraj, Pharm.D.

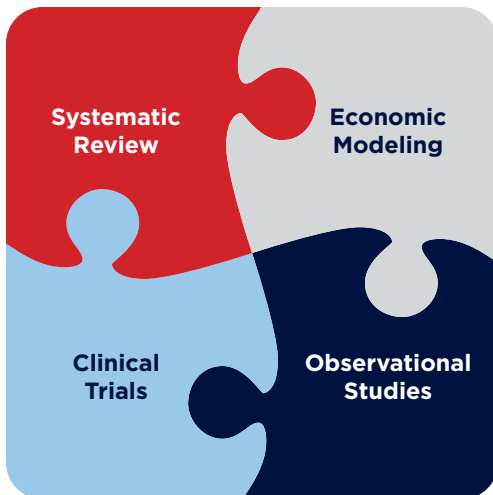
#### Health/Economic Modeling

- Craig Coleman, Pharm.D.



UConn students work with assistant clinical professor Chinenye Anyanwu to prevent overdoses in Hartford communities.





## **HOPES**

HOPES comprises UConn School of Pharmacy faculty members who 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, health care payors, and patients need this information to make optimal health decisions.

HOPES faculty include three ACCP Young Investigators of the Year, two ASHP Foundation Sustained Contributions to the Literature Awardees, three AACP

Lyman Awardees, and are seven time ASHP Foundation Drug Therapy Research Awardees.

We have worked with the following federal agencies and societies in an effort to inform 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)





Professor C. Michael White oversees students participating in Immunization training in a practice lab.



## PRISM

PRISM is composed 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 faculty have received the APhA Pinnacle Award for their innovative work.

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

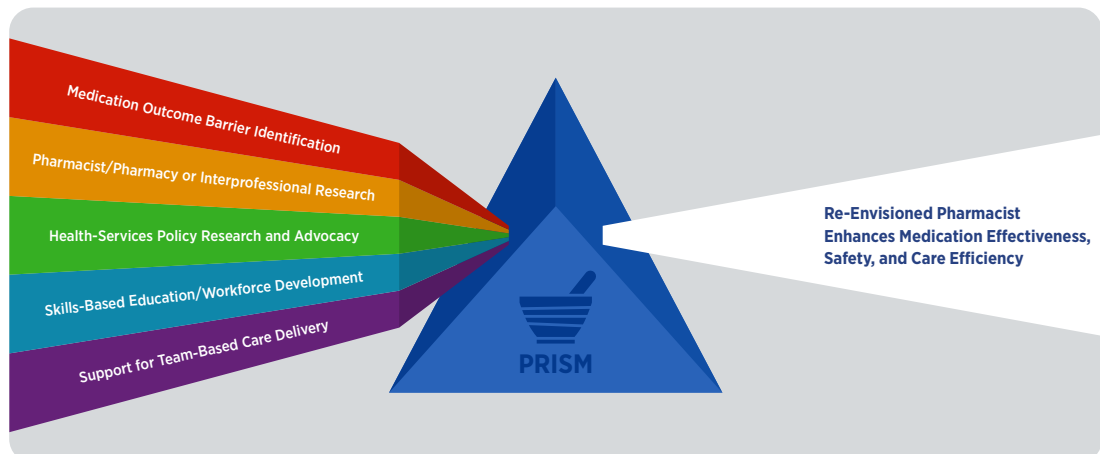
- Immunizations. Pharmacists are now the second most common providers of immunizations in Connecticut and a prime place that patients who are uninsured or underinsured can go.

- 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 assessment of community pharmacy workflow to maximize pharmacist-patient interaction.
- Pharmacist-inclusive health care teams to optimize medical office efficiency.
- The role of the pharmacist as a provider of screenings, immunizations, and point-of-care testing in underserved urban and rural areas.
- The role of the pharmacist as a provider of comprehensive medication management in public/population health.
- Leading a multidisciplinary public-private partnership for safe and effective AI integration into pharmacy practice.

Find more information and faculty contacts online at [pharmacy.uconn.edu](http://pharmacy.uconn.edu).







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





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



## Faculty Clinical/Disease Specialties

### Ambulatory Care and Diabetes Care

- Marissa Salvo, Pharm.D.
- Stefanie Nigro, Pharm.D.
- Devra Dang, Pharm.D.
- Fei Wang, Pharm.D.
- Christina Polomoff, Pharm.D.

### Anticoagulation and Hemostasis

- Craig Coleman, Pharm.D.
- Youssef Bessada, Pharm.D.
- William Baker, Pharm.D.
- Katelyn Galli, Pharm.D.

### Artificial Intelligence and Pharmacy Technology

- Sean Jeffery, Pharm.D.
- Stephanie Gernant, Pharm.D.
- Nathaniel Rickles, Pharm.D., Ph.D.

### Cardiovascular Care

- William Baker, Pharm.D.
- Adrian Hernandez, MD, Ph.D.
- Youssef Bessada, Pharm.D.
- Katelyn Galli, Pharm.D.
- Craig Coleman, Pharm.D.
- C. Michael White, Pharm.D.

### Educational Effectiveness and Simulation

- Diana Sobieraj, Pharm.D.
- Kathryn Wheeler, Pharm.D.
- Cassandra Doyno, Pharm.D.
- Lisa Holle, Pharm.D.
- Kristin Waters, Pharm.D.
- Kathleen Adams, Pharm.D.
- Jennifer Luciano, Pharm.D.
- Marissa Salvo, Pharm.D.
- Jeanette Wick, Pharm.D.

### Health Disparities and Underserved Communities:

- Devra Dang, Pharm.D.
- Fei Wang, Pharm.D.
- Chinenye Anyanwu, Pharm.D., MPH

### Anticoagulation and Hemostasis

- Craig Coleman, Pharm.D.
- Youssef Bessada, Pharm.D.
- William Baker, Pharm.D.
- Katelyn Galli, Pharm.D.

### Infectious Diseases and Vaccines

- Jeffery Aeschlimann, Pharm.D.
- Jennifer Giroto, Pharm.D.

### Managed Care, Public Health, Health Policy

- Marie Smith, Pharm.D.
- Sean Jeffery, Pharm.D.
- Christina Polomoff, Pharm.D.
- Chinenye Anyanwu, Pharm.D., MPH
- Stephanie Gernant, Pharm.D.
- Nathaniel Rickles, Pharm.D.
- C. Michael White, Pharm.D.

### Natural Products and Nutrition

- C. Michael White, Pharm.D.

### Pediatrics

- Jennifer Giroto, Pharm.D.

### Substances of Abuse

- Kristin Waters, Pharm.D.
- Kathleen Adams, Pharm.D.
- Nathaniel Rickles, Pharm.D., Ph.D.
- C. Michael White, Pharm.D.





**UConn**  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

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