

# The Clotting Connection

*A Newsletter for Families with Bleeding and Clotting Disorders*



Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



Affiliated with  
Children's Hospital Colorado

## OCTOBER IS PHARMACY MONTH

In October, we celebrate our HTC Pharmacy for American Pharmacists Month and Pharmacy week (Oct 20-26, 2019). Our HTC Pharmacy is designated as a 340B Pharmacy, which means it has federal authorization to purchase medication at a lower cost. This provides much-needed support for our HTC clinic and our patient services.



Our Pharmacy Team. Back row (left to right): Desi Hill, Jonathan Truong, Olivia Rapacchietta, Paul Limberis, Rae Gerold-Smith. Front row (left to right): Lynn Magnuson, Kara Taylor, Yevette Portillo-Corral, Patricia Tucker, Candice Murchison.

Our HTC Pharmacy works closely with our clinical team to quickly provide needed products to patients. Our pharmacists understand the unique needs of our patients, and can respond immediately to fulfill their medication requirements. The pharmacy team encourages our patients to be involved in the Pharmacy Patient Management Program, which allows our pharmacists to talk with patients or caregivers to help them manage their bleeding disorder. This can involve counseling, medication advice, and planning to ensure that patients have the items they need in order to stay on their treatment plan.

This past year Olivia Rapacchietta joined us as our new Chief Clinical Pharmacist. We also have a new intern, Jonathan Truong, who joined us in April. Both are excited to get to know our patients and provide regular support.

Our HTC Pharmacy is accredited by URAC and were chosen as a review site in May (which is similar to an audit). The pharmacy completed this review with great success, and they work each day to maintain efficiency and quality at all times. In 2020, we will be preparing to get a second accreditation with ACHC and working to renew our accreditation with URAC. Both accreditations ensure we are maintaining the top standards in pharmacy care.

As a part of our accreditation, our pharmacy sends out a satisfaction survey, which was mailed to patients earlier this month. These surveys allow us to review our strengths and weaknesses, and get feedback from those we serve the most. [Continued on page 2]

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As we approach the holidays, be aware of our clinic and pharmacy closures. See holiday hours online at [medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc](https://medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc).

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Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and our website for frequent updates on news and events.



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## HTC SPOTLIGHT: PHARMACIST OLIVIA RAPACCHIETTA



Olivia Rapacchietta joined our Pharmacy team in July.

A professional headshot of Olivia Rapacchietta, a woman with long dark hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a dark-colored top. The background is a neutral, textured grey.

If you are visiting our HTC, come meet our new pharmacist, Olivia Rapacchietta! Olivia joined us as a full time clinical pharmacist at the beginning of July and fits right in to our pharmacy team. Olivia was born and raised in Texas and is the youngest of four children. She speaks Spanish fluently and loves to work with Spanish-speaking patients. She was the first in her family to graduate from college and was inspired to go into pharmacy care by a doctor she visited as a child. Olivia faced many years of medical treatment as a teen to treat asthma and other upper respiratory infections and during one clinic visit, her doctor suggested she become a pharmacist.

Olivia worked for ten years as a full-time pharmacy technician as she took classes to reach that goal. In 2008, she graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The Skaggs School of Pharmacy here at the University of Colorado. After graduation she completed a one year post graduate residency (PGY-1) and then became Board Certified in both Pharmacotherapy Specialty (BCPS) and as an Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP). Olivia has received an award as Ambulatory Teacher of the Year for Regis School of Pharmacy in 2014 and was nominated for the Kaiser Permanente of Colorado Teacher of the Year in 2018.

Olivia worked in anticoagulation and cardiology before joining us at the HTC and has always had an interest in hematology. She is excited to work with the HTC to not only fill orders for factor and other supplies, but to work

with the clinic providing drug information to patients, staff, and providers. She works with the comprehensive clinics two days a week and supports our nursing staff when there are issues with prescriptions or dosing. She also is working with our research staff as a resource on medications.

One project Olivia is working on now is helping our pharmacy intern learn more of the clinical duties and to have contact with patients prior to their comprehensive visits to get a more complete medication history before their visits. She says of this new job:

***“This is the best pharmacy group I have ever worked with! It is a privilege and an honor to be part of such a formidable Hemophilia team!”***

Besides working with a great pharmacy team, she loves working with all our HTC providers and staff. She admires the commitment and passion the HTC team has for helping all those who they treat.

Olivia loves everything football! Besides watching the NFL when she can, she coaches both of her two children in flag football, manages multiple teams in Fantasy Football, and even lettered all four years in high school football. Olivia also loves Halloween, and enjoys going on vacation during this time of year to see decorations and celebrations in different cities with her family. She even got married on Halloween and is celebrating 16 years of marriage this year.

Olivia is excited to be working here and looks forward to meeting the many patients that we treat. Our HTC staff is equally thrilled to have her experience and passion help support our patients through exemplary pharmacy support. She is a delight to work with, and we hope you have a chance to meet her next time you visit our clinic.

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We have fully implemented new packaging that helps ensure medications are kept at the proper temperature; however, this means larger boxes and extra materials. It quickly became apparent that patients were struggling to dispose of or recycle them. Our pharmacy has worked with our suppliers and delivery providers to make it easier for



patients who receive factor to get rid of these shipping materials easily. Each of our shipping boxes now include a label with the paperwork to return it for recycling. After factor and supplies are unpacked, patients can tape up the Certis box with all the shipping materials and just put the return label on the box. Patients can schedule FedEx to come pick up the box, or it can be dropped off at a FedEx office. We have more information on this program on our website under our Pharmacy page, and included in the shipping paperwork.

The next time you are visiting with our pharmacy workers, we hope you can take a moment to thank them for their hard work. Their efforts make caring for patients with bleeding disorders a little easier and we are glad they are a part of our team here at the HTC!



# HTC STAFF ATTEND NHF AND ATHN CONFERENCES

Over the past month, many of our HTC team have been involved in presenting research on a national scale. Staff from our center shared posters, or were involved in panels and presentations at the National Hemophilia Foundation's (NHF) 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Bleeding Disorders Conference held in Anaheim, California. Our center was also represented at the American Thrombosis & Hemostasis Network (ATHN) Data Summit, held in Chicago, Illinois. Both of these national conferences gave these staff members the opportunity to share their research and knowledge with patients and other providers from around the country.

Dr. Tyler Buckner was a part of a panel on HTCs at the NHF Conference, and he gave two research presentations at the ATHN Data Summit. One was on ATHN7, the Hemophilia Natural History Study, and the other was on orthopedic surgical procedures in persons with hemophilia.

Our Psychologist, Emily Wheat, spoke in a forum with NHF's Education Specialist Marlee Whetten during the NHF Conference. They facilitated group activities to support problem solving, relaxation, and cognitive education as well as leading a discussion on anxiety, depression, and stress.



NHF's Marlee Whetten and HTC Psychologist Emily Wheat at the NHF Annual Conference.

Bryn Dunham, one of our Social Workers, attended the ATHN Data Summit and presented a poster on transition from pediatric to adult medical care. This poster reflected the efforts of our HTC to effectively equip both teenagers/young adults and their parents/caregivers with strategies for managing this important life transition.

Rick Shearer, our Data Manager, and Merilee Ashton, our Communications Coordinator, were involved in preparing two posters presented at both NHF and ATHN. Both posters were in association with the National Patient Satisfaction Survey results and reviewed trends between input from 2014 and 2017. The first poster showed the overall trends in satisfaction with Hemophilia Treatment Centers nationwide. The second poster showed results from teenagers, and addressed questions

that were asked only of teenagers to gauge how HTCs are supporting them.

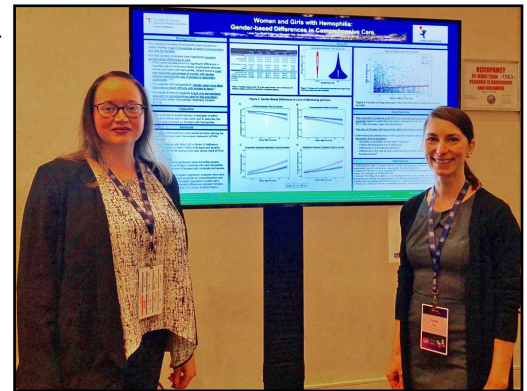
Physical therapist Laura Fox worked with our statistician Dianne

Thornhill to put together a poster on "Women and Girls with Hemophilia: Gender-based Differences in Comprehensive Care." The research used data from ATHN's data set and aimed to systematically investigate whether gender-based differences in care exist. The study also explored the current level of care received by females with hemophilia nationwide. Laura presented at both the NHF Conference and at the ATHN Data Summit, with Dianne joining her at ATHN.

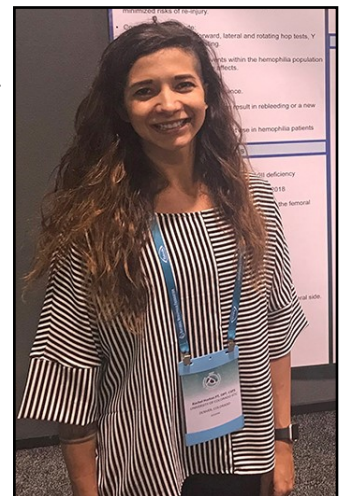
Rachel Horton, another one of our physical therapists, presented a poster at the NHF Conference that reviewed her case study on return to sport testing for a child with severe hemophilia and complex past medical history. The study compared return to activity for the general population and a hemophilia test case to measure appropriate timelines for a return to activity. This may be a part of continued study for a larger research program in the future.

Dr. Marilyn Manco-Johnson and Dr. Mike Wang also attended these conferences and were able to connect with other researchers from around the country. These conferences give our staff a chance to share the results of years of research on behalf of the many patients we see every day.

We congratulate our staff who were involved in these conferences and hope that continued research will help bring improvements to the daily lives of patients.



Dianne Thornhill and Laura Fox presenting their poster at the ATHN Data Summit.



Rachel Horton presenting her poster at the NHF Conference.

## RECENT HEADLINES

These are a few of the headlines that we've recently featured on our Newsroom page or on Facebook.

**Application Deadline for NHF's National Youth Leadership Institute is October 31st**

**FDA Approves Octapharma's Wilate for Hemophilia A in Adult and Adolescent Patients**

**Genentech Issues Statement on Hemlibra Particles; MASAC Responds**

**Freeline's Gene Therapy for Hemophilia B Shows Promising Phase 1/2 Results**

**Study Shows Hemophilia 3 Times as Prevalent in Men than Originally Thought**

We maintain a Newsroom page at our website with a list of the news we feel may be of interest to our patients and families. To see more go to: [www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc](http://www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc) then find the **RESOURCES** tab, and go to the **NEWSROOM** page. Find other stories at our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ColoradoHTC/](http://www.facebook.com/ColoradoHTC/)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mark Your Calendars:**

**October is National Pharmacists Month**

**Oct 20-26:** Pharmacy Week

**Nov 1-3:** RMHBDA Women's Retreat—Chico Hot Springs, MT

**Nov 3:** NHF CO Bronco's Connection Party—Centennial, CO

**Nov 9:** Backpacks + Bleeders: Green Mountain Loop Hike

**Nov 28-29:** Clinic, Pharmacy, and Administrative Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

**Dec 15:** NHF CO Holiday Party—Denver, CO

**Dec 24-25:** Clinic, Pharmacy, and Administrative Offices closed for Christmas Holiday

**See more at our Events Page on our website: [www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc](http://www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc) find RESOURCES tab, go to EVENTS**

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