

# The Clotting Connection

A Newsletter for Families with Bleeding and Clotting Disorders

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Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



Affiliated with  
Children's Hospital Colorado

## OCTOBER IS PHARMACY MONTH



Our HTC Pharmacy team includes (from left) Aaron Barcelo, Trish Tucker, Candice Murchison, Suzanne Kasim, Desi Hill, Bruce Young, Derrick Keesling, and Talia Garramone. (not pictured, Lillian Afrifa). Photo: Merilee Ashton

October is American Pharmacists Month! We celebrate the specialized 340B Pharmacy at our HTC this month for all of their hard work throughout the year to provide medications and support to our patients.

Our HTC Pharmacy is one of only a few specialty pharmacies that is dually accredited with both the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC) and the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC). This means that our pharmacy has done detailed work to make sure that we meet all the requirements and standards set by both organizations. They are each non

-profit organizations that hold pharmacies accountable to the highest standards and verify that our pharmacy provides the excellence in care our patients need and deserve.

We are also a 340B Pharmacy, which means that we are designated by the federal government to operate as a non-profit organization and purchase bleeding disorder medication at a discount. This comes with the stipulation that the profits our pharmacy generates are invested directly into the HTC to lower the cost of care for patients.

Our pharmacy team works with patients and providers in our clinic to make sure each patient is receiving the most appropriate treatment. Pharmacists are there to help with support for patients, answering questions, explaining how medications are administered, and how to properly use and store them. Each year our pharmacy team surveys patients who receive medication from us on our performance, and responses remain overwhelmingly positive. We continue to strive to find ways to make things easier for patients. This year we added a new way to pay pharmacy bills online! Just go to our website and find our [Pay My Bill tab](#).

Our pharmacy team is led by our Pharmacy Manager, Desi Hill, and includes Senior Clinical Pharmacist Bruce Young and Pharmacists Aaron Barcelo and Suzanne Kasim. We have two Pharmacy Technicians, Talia Garramone and Derrick Keesling, who assist pharmacists with orders and prepare the packages we send out. Trish Tucker is our Pharmacy Assistant, and Candice Murchison is our Pharmacy Revenue Cycle Specialist. We also have the help of Lillian Afrifa as an intern in our pharmacy.

Our team works closely together and enjoy spending time outside of work connecting. A few from our pharmacy have gone climbing together, and most of our team have enjoyed the occasional happy hour or a trivia night together. We celebrate the hard work and organization that our pharmacy team does to make a difference for our patients!



Atop Mt. San Luis (l to r) Derrick Keesling, Aaron Barcelo, Aaron's two sons Landon and Rand, and Bruce Young. Photo: Aaron Barcelo

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Website: Go to

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# HTC PHARMACY STAFF SPOTLIGHT: NEW PHARMACISTS BRUCE YOUNG AND AARON BARCELO



Bruce Young atop Mt. Sherman this summer. Photo: Bruce Young

During the past year, two new pharmacists have joined us here at our HTC Pharmacy. You may have already had a chance to chat with either Bruce or Aaron, but we thought we would share a little about them both as we celebrate our pharmacy this month!

Bruce Young, PharmD, is our Senior Clinical Pharmacist and joined our team in March. Bruce grew up in Colorado in a family that emphasized school and grades but played a lot of ball afterschool and on weekends. He became a mechanic, and worked toward his degree at Front Range Community College in Colorado. He attended Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois for pharmacy school, and returned to Colorado to begin his work as a pharmacist.

Bruce worked at a home-infusion pharmacy and was a manager at a Walgreens before joining us this year. He became interested in working with hemophilia and bleeding disorder patients because the patients we see are dealing with a hereditary condition and we see them throughout their lifetime. He enjoys connecting with both patients and colleagues in managing the day-to-day affairs at the pharmacy. One important project that Bruce works on is verifying that our pharmacy keeps up on our accreditation standards. Bruce also leads our quality management team.

Some of the things Bruce enjoys are vacationing in Hawaii, mountain hiking, camping, fishing and snowboarding. Bruce loves all kinds of food but his favorite is Mexican food! He enjoys working with our pharmacy team and the positive environment here. In fact, he, Aaron and our pharmacy tech Derrick climbed a 14er this summer together.

Aaron Barcelo, PharmD, MPA is a Clinical Pharmacist and joined our team in June. He worked at Walgreens for the past 12 years, 11 of those as a manager. Aaron spent a substantial amount of his childhood in Kenya, East Africa, even climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro as a teenager! He found his way to Kentucky, where he earned his undergrad at Asbury College in Wilmore. He earned his MPA and PharmD at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Aaron and Bruce worked together previously at Walgreens and are happy to be working in an environment that focuses on a specific patient group. It is an opportunity to learn more about bleeding disorders as well as connecting with patients in a different way. Aaron shared that he enjoys the camaraderie with the pharmacy here, the HTC staff, and especially the nice patients that we work with. One area Aaron is working on is making sure that our compounded products, such as our nasal spray and gel, are stable and sterile and we are confident of their 'use by' date. He's working with labs that test compounded medications to confirm we share accurate and safe information to our patients.

Aaron enjoys home improvement, hiking, skiing, and weightlifting, as well as reading books by Brandon Sanderson, Larry Correa and Jim Butcher. He loves samosas, salmon, and really good steaks! He shared that his life has taught him that "attitude is everything," and that if you can maintain a positive attitude, life is easier!

We are so happy to have both Bruce and Aaron join our pharmacy team this year. They both bring expertise and a positive attitude to our HTC Pharmacy! We welcome both Bruce and Aaron and hope you get the chance to know them!



Aaron and Derrick hiking San Luis Peak (a 14er) this summer (top). Aaron and his husky Odin on Mt. Sherman. Photos: Aaron Barcelo

# CHANGE COMES FOR PEDIATRIC STROKE PROGRAM

For the past 18 years, our HTC hosted a Pediatric Stroke program in support of children who experienced a stroke as well as those with unique pediatric neurological conditions related to stroke. We also hosted a pediatric stroke parent support group to provide education and a way to connect with others in similar circumstances.



Our Pediatric Stroke Parent Support Group hosted fun events throughout the year. Check with CHCO or our Facebook page for updates.

We developed this program in conjunction with Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) and we shared some resources, doctors, nurses, other support staff and our experience as we helped children and their families facing the consequences of a stroke. Often these strokes were caused by clotting disorders and it made sense to be connected to our center which handles thrombosis issues. In the past several years, it became apparent that some of the resources that our patients needed may be better shifted to be under the Children's Hospital Colorado umbrella.

Last month, we transferred this program to the care of Children's Hospital Colorado, and we are confident in their efforts to make a difference in the lives of children who experience stroke. The reasons for children experiencing a stroke are varied and CHCO has extensive resources and experience to provide them with exemplary care. We were privileged to get to work with this population for 18 years and are so

grateful to have been able to provide care and support for both patients and families.

Now that the transition over to CHCO is complete, we wanted to thank all our providers, especially the founders of the clinic, Dr. Neil Goldenberg, Dr. Marilyn Manco-Johnson, Dr. Tim Bernard and Dr. Jennifer Armstrong. We also want to share some information for any looking to know more about where to turn when facing a stroke in children. If you were a patient with us and need support, please connect with CHCO by contacting their Neurology program at 720-777-6895. Their website can be found at [childrenscolorado.org/conditions-and-advice/conditions-and-symptoms/conditions/stroke/](https://childrenscolorado.org/conditions-and-advice/conditions-and-symptoms/conditions/stroke/).

For our support group families, we are so grateful to have been able to work with you and your kids! We are in the process of transitioning this program to CHCO, and you may see more information about the support group in coming months. Be aware that the support group will be on hold until CHCO is able to provide the staff and resources to get it back up and running. The Facebook group we have established can be found at [facebook.com/Colopedsstroke](https://facebook.com/Colopedsstroke) and is a good resource for updates on this program in the future.

Our clinic will continue to treat and care for pediatric patients experiencing cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST), which is a rare blood clot condition that can lead to stroke. The CVST clinic at our HTC remains under the care of Dr. Timothy Bernard. If you have questions about the CVST clinic, please feel free to give us a call at 303-724-0724. For any other questions about pediatric stroke treatment, please contact the Neurology program at CHCO at 720-777-6895.



Our HTC was able to help pediatric stroke patients with medical care and physical therapy (top). Over the years, some of our patients shared their stories with our team, including their accomplishments in overcoming the side effects of stroke..

## HTC PHARMACY RECEIVES PIONEER IN PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AWARD



The HTC Pharmacy recently received the [Pioneer in Performance Measurement Award](#) from URAC, one of the leading Specialty Pharmacy accreditation organizations. Of the over 1,500 accredited URAC Specialty Accredited Pharmacies, our HTC Pharmacy was recognized as one of the top performers in dispensing prescriptions requests quickly and accurately, phone call answering speed and availability, and delivering medications to patients on the promised delivery date. The HTC Pharmacy team takes great pride in delivering world class care for the patients that they serve, and wish to thank the bleeding disorder community for their support and patronage. If you would like to learn more about the HTC pharmacy please visit our website at: [medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis/pharmacy](https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis/pharmacy) or call us directly at 303-724-0168.

## RECENT HEADLINES

These are a few of the headlines that we've recently featured on our Newsroom page or on Social Media:

**Study Shows Sevenfact Safe, Effective for Patients with Hemophilia A or B with Inhibitors**

**FDA Approves First Non-Factor, Once-Weekly Treatment for Hemophilia A or B**

**Study Suggests Hemlibra Effectively Prevents Bleeding in Acquired Hemophilia A**

**Gene Therapy Data for Roctavian Shows Most Remained Off Preventative Therapy after Seven Years**

**Gene Editing Therapy Shows Promise in Pre-Clinical Study in Animals**

We maintain a newsroom page at our website with a list of news articles that may be of interest to our patients and families. Go to [medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis/resources/newsroom](https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis/resources/newsroom) to read more. We also share news on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

Sign up to get this newsletter delivered directly to your email box each month! Just go to [eepurl.com/bnszoz](http://eepurl.com/bnszoz) or scan the QR code and fill out the form!



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mark Your Calendars:

**Please note. These dates may be tentative and subject to change. Please check appropriate websites for confirmation of events.**

**Oct 31:** Happy Halloween

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

**Nov 3:** Daylight Saving Time Ends

**Nov 6:** NBDF Colorado Education Dinner-Colorado Springs, CO

**Nov 7:** NBDF Colorado Cross-Cultural Dinner Program

**Nov 11:** Veterans Day (our HTC is open)

**Nov 28-29:** Clinic, Pharmacy, and Admin offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

**See more at our Events Page on our website:** [medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis/resources/events-calendar](https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis/resources/events-calendar)

**ME-WE-HTC** We create hope.

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Pharmacy Main: 303-724-0168

or toll free at 888-724-7427

Web page:

[medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis](https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis)

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