

Ashley Firm, PharmD, RPh
University of Pittsburgh
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

BIOGRAPHICAL

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EDUCATION and TRAINING

UNDERGRADUATE

2008–2012	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA	Bachelor of Science, 2012	Pharmaceutical Science
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GRADUATE

2012–2014	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh PA	Doctor of Pharmacy, 2014	Pharmacy
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POSTGRADUATE

2014–2015	University of Georgia, College of Pharmacy	PGY1 Community Pharmacy Residency, 2015	Clinical Pharmacy
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APPOINTMENTS and POSITIONS

ACADEMIC

2016–2019	University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Science Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology Physician Assistant Studies Program Pittsburgh, PA	Adjunct Assistant Professor
2016–2020	University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics Pittsburgh, PA	Associate Clinical Preceptor of Pharmacy and Therapeutics
2016–2020	University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics Pittsburgh, PA	Adjunct Instructor
2019 – 2020	University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Science Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology Physician Assistant Studies Program Pittsburgh, PA	Adjunct Assistant Professor
2020 – Present	University of Pittsburgh School of Rehabilitation Sciences Department of Physician Assistant Studies Physician Assistant Studies Program Pittsburgh, PA	Assistant Professor
2021– Present	University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Science Department of Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Physician Assistant Studies Program Pittsburgh, PA	Assistant Professor
2022–Present	University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Science Department of Physical Therapy Pittsburgh, PA	Adjunct Assistant Professor

NON-ACADEMIC

2015–2020	Asti’s South Hills Pharmacy Pittsburgh, PA	Clinical Pharmacist
2020–Present	CVS Pharmacy Pittsburgh, PA	COVID Vaccinator/ District Support Pharmacist
2021–2022	East Liberty Family Health Center Pharmacy Pittsburgh, PA	PRN Pharmacist

CERTIFICATION and LICENSURE

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION:

American Pharmacists Association	Diabetes Care Certificate 2014
Pennsylvania Pharmacist Care Network	Comprehensive Medication Management Collaborative 2015
American Pharmacists Association	Pharmacy–Based Immunization Delivery Certificate Program for Pharmacists 2015
University of Georgia College of Pharmacy	Teaching Certificate Program for Pharmacy Residents 2015 Mentor: Catherine Bourg Rebitch, PharmD, BCACP
Diabetes Prevention Program Group Lifestyle Balance	Coach 2018
Diabetes Prevention Program Group Lifestyle Balance	Master Trainer 2020

MEDICAL or OTHER PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE:

Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy, Pharmacist: RP448587	2014 – Present
Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy, Authorization to Administer Injectables: RPI006919	2015– Present
Georgia State Board of Pharmacy, Pharmacist RPH0027900	2014–2016 (currently inactive)

AWARDS and HONORS

University of Pittsburgh, the Provost’s Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence Innovation in Education Award	2018
University of Pittsburgh Department of Physician Assistant Studies Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award	2019
Inductee to Phi Alpha National Honor Society for Physician Assistants	2020
University of Pittsburgh Department of Physician Assistant Studies Distinguished Faculty Award	2021

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Turco E, Carroll JC, McGivney MS, McGrath SH, Herbert SMC, **Firm A**, Coley KC. Coaching strategies for the flip the pharmacy practice transformation initiative in Pennsylvania independent community pharmacies. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2022.07.013>

Phi C, Berenbrok LA, Carroll JC, **Firm A**, McGivney MS, Coley KC. Impact of a medication adherence packaging service on patient–centered outcomes at an independent community pharmacy. *Pharmacy*. 2021;9(1). <https://doi.org/10.3390/pharmacy9010011>.

Hannings A, **Firm A**, Bertrand C and Galdo J. Hypertension 101: A Review of JNC 8. *US Pharmacist*. 2015; 40 (2): 64–72.

Firm A, Bertrand C and Dantzler C. Navigation Female Hormones: A Pharmacist’s Guide to HRT. *US Pharmacist*. 2015; 40 (9): 33–37.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

Reynolds M, **Firm A**, Rodgers C. Barriers to Diagnosis of Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants, Annual Conference, Hershey, PA. October 2023.

Firm A, Fannie R. Physician assistant students’ perceptions of writing reflections on supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPE). University of Pittsburgh Teaching and Learning Conference. Pittsburgh, PA. January, 2023.

Herbert S, **Firm A**. Initial impressions of interprofessional collaboration competency attainment at a university led, interprofessional vaccination clinic. Interprofessional Education Collaborative Poster Fair. Virtual Session. December 2022.

Rodgers C, Beck D, David C, Farkas D, Hariharan K, **Firm A**, McSwigan T, Tolomeo D, Taylor L, Reed K, Mulligan H, Gutierrez C, Graff S, Sajdak T. Description of an innovative physician assistant studies hybrid education program. University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine MedEd Day. Pittsburgh, PA. September 2022

Firm A, Tolomeo D, Reed K, Wilson A. “You’re still muted”: increasing student engagement in a remote learning environment. University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine MedEd Day. Pittsburgh, PA. September 2022

Firm A, Murphy E, Berenbrok L, Beck D. Student perspective of a merged pharmacology classroom. University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine MedEd Day. Pittsburgh, PA. September 2022.

Firm A, Tolomeo D, Reed K, Wilson A. “You’re still muted”: increasing student engagement in a remote learning environment. University of Pittsburgh Teaching and Learning Conference. Virtual Conference. February 2022.

Oyefusi M, Wilson A, **Firm A**. Culturally tailored diabetes education for the African American population. Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants. Poconos, PA. October 2021.

Firm A, Murphy E, Beck D. The merged pharmacology classroom: A formative and interdisciplinary approach to physician assistant education. Physician Assistant Education Association. Virtual Conference. October 2021.

Firm A, Graff S, Rodgers C. A review of classroom implementation of inclusive learning styles and diversity in medical literature. University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine MedEd Day. Pittsburgh, PA. September 2021.

Firm A, Graff S, Rodgers C. Embracing education, innovation, and diversity in the medical literature. University of Pittsburgh Teaching and Learning Conference. Virtual Conference. February 2021.

Firm A, Murphy E, Berenbrok L, Grieve L, Beck D. Results of a merged pharmacology classroom on standardized test scores in physician assistant education. University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine MedEd Day. Pittsburgh, PA. September 2020.

Murphy E, **Firm A**, Berenbrok L, Grieve L, Beck D. The merged pharmacology classroom: A formative and interdisciplinary approach to physician assistant education. Canadian Association of Physician Assistants 2019 Annual Conference. Niagara Falls, ON, Canada. October 2019.

Phi C, Berenbrok L, **Firm A**, Meston L, McGivney M, Coley KC. Impact of a medication adherence packaging service on patient-centered outcomes at an independent community pharmacy. 2019 APhA Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA. March 2019.

Buck T, Berenbrok L, Coley K, **Firm A**, Meston L, McGivney M. Evaluation patients’ perceived value and experience with a comprehensive medication review in an independent community pharmacy. 2018 APhA Annual Meeting. Nashville, TN. March 2018.

Firm A, Bertrand C, Dantzler C, Bourg CA. The impact of a pharmacist– dietitian multidisciplinary team on improving patient biometrics to cardiovascular disease goals. 2015 APhA Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. March 2015.

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Murphy E, Firm A, Berenbrok L, Grieve L, Beck D. The merged pharmacology classroom: a formative and interdisciplinary approach to physician assistant education. *Journal of Canada’s Physician Assistants*. 2019;1(3): ANNEX 6.

Firm A and Bertrand C. The Community Pharmacist’s Guide to Pain Management. *America’s Pharmacist*. 2015; 137(11): 41–52.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

TEACHING

PAS Graduate Student Teaching:

University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Science Department of Physician Assistant Studies

Primary instruction:

2016 – Present PAS 2204 Pharmacology I, Course Coordinator and Primary Instructor, 45–60 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies students, 3 credits

2016 – Present PAS 2304 Pharmacology I, Course Coordinator and Primary Instructor, 45–60 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies students, 3 credits

Description: PAS 2204 and 2304 is a two-part pharmacology course series in semester two and three of didactic year for physician assistant students in the residential masters program. Each three-credit course emphasizes safe and effective medication prescribing using team based and problem-based case learning during live sessions within a flipped classroom model.

2023– Present PAS 2404 Interpreting and Evaluating the Medical Literature, Course Coordinator and Primary Instructor, 100 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Students, 1 credit.

Description: PAS2404 is a one credit course offered in term one of the didactic year to students in the hybrid masters of physician assistant studies program. The course teaches critical appraisal of available medical literature to support the practice of evidence based medical decision making.

2023– Present PAS 2412 Pharmacology, Course Coordinator and Primary Instructor, 100 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Students, 3 credits.

2023– Present PAS 2416 Pharmacology, Course Coordinator and Primary Instructor, 100 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Students, 3 credits.

Description: PAS 2412 and 2416 is a two-part pharmacology course series in semester two and three of didactic year for physician assistant students in the hybrid masters program. Each three-credit course emphasizes safe and effective medication prescribing using team based and problem-based case learning during live sessions within a flipped classroom model.

Additional instruction

2019 – Present	PAS 2101 Introduction to Physician Assistant Profession, Lecturer, 45–60 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies students, 1 credit
2020 – Present	PAS 2108 Introduction to Clinical Medicine/Lab, Lecturer, 60 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies students, 3 credits
2021	PAS 2106 Interpreting and Evaluating the Medical Literature, Co–Instructor, 60 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies students, 1 credit
2022–Present	PAS 2108 Health Policy, Lecturer, 60 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies students, 2 credits
2022	PAS 2305 Health Issues Across the Life Span, Lecturer, 60 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies students, 2 credits
2023–Present	PAS 2401 Introduction to Physician Assistant Profession, Lecturer, 100 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Hybrid Students, 1 credit
2023– Present	PAS 2403 Health Policy, Lecturer, 100 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Students, 2 credits
2023– Present	PAS 2417 Health Issues Across the Lifespan, Lecturer, 100 Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Students, 2 credits

PT Graduate Student Teaching:

University of Pittsburgh

Description: PT 2102 is a three credit course offered within the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program emphasizing the impact of medications on the safety and efficacy of physical therapy interventions on patients.

2022– Present	PT 2102 Pharmacology, Course Coordinator, 60 Doctorate of Physical Therapy Students, 3 credits
2022– Present	PT 2102 Hybrid Pharmacology, Course Coordinator, 21–84 Doctorate of Physical Therapy Students, 3 credits

PharmD Graduate Student Teaching:

University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

2014	PHRM 4120 Skills Lab, Facilitator and Individual Lab Developer, 150 Doctorate of Pharmacy students
2015	PHRM 5820 Self–Care and Nonprescription Drugs, Lecturer, 170 Doctorate of Pharmacy students
2015	PHRM 4860 Disease State Management II, Lecturer, 170 Doctorate of Pharmacy students

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

2019–2020 PHARM 5311 Safe Medication Use & Pharmacoeconomics, Lecturer, 114
Doctorate of Pharmacy students

Other Teaching:

2021 REHSCI: 1295 Field Experience, 1 Bachelors of Rehabilitation Science
Student, 3 credits

2022 REHSCI: 1265 Pharmacology, Lecturer, 115 undergraduate students

2024 HRS: 1001 Case Studies in the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences,
Undergraduate students

Curriculum Development

2019 Academia- Community Transformation Pharmacy Collaborative;
Dyslipidemia Therapy. Development of community pharmacy based
curriculum on management of dyslipidemia and providing high quality
patient care services.

Doctoral Dissertation Committees:

1. Lisa Metler, DPAS Student, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Chair Mary
Allias EdD, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA
Dissertation Title: Topical Lidocaine Use Resulting in Severe Lidocaine Toxicity
Dr Metler received her DPAS in 2024.
2. Sydney Harteis, DPAS Student, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Chair
Emily Murphy EdD, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA
Dissertation Title: Lack of Evidence Based Opioid Education in the Primary Care Setting
to Ensure Optimal Management of Chronic Pain Patients
Dr Harteis received her DPAS in 2024.

Master's Thesis Committees:

1. Abigail Matusik, Masters of Health Administration. Chair: Mary Wisniewski
Title: Avoidable Blood Waste Toolkit: A Quality Improvement Initiative Amid a Public
Health Crisis
Abigail Matusik received her MHA in 2022.

Advising:

1. 2020-2021: Co-advisor to 20 Masters of Physician Assistant Studies Residential Program
Students
2. 2023- Present: Advisor to 11-20 Masters of Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Program
Students

RESEARCH

Current Grant Support:

Grant Number	Grant Title	Role and Effort	Years Inclusive	Source and Amount
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Prior Grant Support:

Grant Number	Grant Title	Role and Effort	Years Inclusive	Source and Amount
5H79TI081668-02	University of Pittsburgh Physician Assistant Studies MAT Training Program	Co-Investigator 12 months	2018 – 2021	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \$436,091 direct
	QUEST for Pain Management: Improving Quality, Utilization, Efficacy, Safety and Treatment of Pain Management.	Co-investigator 12 months	2014–2015	National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation Catalyst Grant \$5000
	The Merged Pharmacology Classroom: A Formative and Interdisciplinary Approach to Physician Assistant Education.	Project Director 12 months	2018–2019	University of Pittsburgh Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence \$5530
	Pharmacy CDC DPP Accreditation	Coach	2020–2021	National Community Pharmacists Association Diabetes Prevention Program Initiative \$5400

LIST of CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Innovative use of technology in the classroom
- Flipped classroom learning techniques
- Inclusion of professionalism curriculum

INVITED SEMINARS AND LECTURESHIPS

Regional Presentations:

March 2015. “Hepatitis C: Therapy Updated” University of Georgia Grand Rounds. Augusta, GA.

April 2015. “Preparing Early: How to Become a Competitive Residency Candidate.” Student National Pharmaceutical Association Regional Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

May 2015. “The Impact of a Pharmacist–Dietitian Multidisciplinary Team on Improving Patient Biometrics to Cardiovascular Disease Goals.” South Eastern Residency Conference. Athens, GA.

June 2015. “NAPLEX Review and Preparation” University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Athens, GA.

January 2016. “Community Pharmacists Bridging the Connection Between Patients and Treatment for Chronic Hepatitis C.” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Mid–Year Conference. Harrisburg, PA.

September 2016 “The Star–Spangled Revolution: How Community Pharmacists can Affect Their Quality Measures” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Conference. King of Prussia, PA.

October 2016. “Community pharmacists bridging the connection between patients and treatment for chronic hepatitis C.” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, online webinar.

October 2016. “Pharmacists Providing Care with Point of Care Testing” University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Fall Continuing Education Seminar. Pittsburgh, PA.

October 2017 “Starting Medication Synchronization with Clinical Services: Tackling the Elephant Sized Task” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Conference. Poconos, PA.

March 2018 “Starting Medication Synchronization with Clinical Services: Tackling the Elephant Sized Task” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Conference, online webinar.

October 2018 “Diabetes Update” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting. Harrisburg, PA.

January 2019 “Cannabidiol” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Mid–Year Meeting. Harrisburg, PA.

September 2019. “Calcitonin–Gene Receptor Peptide– The Essential Gene for Chronic Migraine Sufferers” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting. Champion, PA.

September 2020. “DPP Best Practices Webinar” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, online webinar.

October 2020. “Collaborating through the Channels of Patient Care (PC2).” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting. Virtual conference.

November 2020. “Implementing a Successful Diabetes Prevention Program in Your Pharmacy Practice” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, online webinar.

February 2021. “Updates to Asthma Guidelines and Treatment Options” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting. Virtual conference.

February 2021. “Let’s Talk Stigma: The Opioid Epidemic, Naloxone, and Barriers to Care.” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting. Virtual conference.

February 2021. “Let’s Talk Stigma: The Opioid Epidemic, Naloxone, and Barriers to Care.” UPMC Health Plan Live CE Series. Online webinar.

January 2022. “Telehealth Best Practices” Pennsylvania Pharmacist Association Recorded Webinar.

February 2023. “Standards of Care in Diabetes 2023: Updates for Pharmacists” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Midyear Meeting. Lancaster, PA.

February 2024. “Standards of Care in Diabetes 2024: Updates for Pharmacists” Pennsylvania Pharmacists Midyear Meeting. Harrisburg, PA.

National Presentation:

March 2018 “Talk #7: Building a Community Pharmacy Network– The Road of a Payor Contract: A Practitioner Perspective” American Pharmacist Association Annual Conference. Nashville, TN.

October 2021. “Engaging Pharmacology Learners: Developing a Competency–Based Approach” Physician Assistant Education Association Education Forum. Virtual conference.

MEMBERSHIP in PROFESSIONAL and SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity Inc	Member	2010 – Present
Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society	Member	2012 – Present
American Pharmacists Association	Member	2014– Present
Allegheny County Pharmacists Association	Member	2015 – Present
	Treasurer	2016–2017
	Secretary	2018–2020
	President	2020–2021
	Immediate Past President	2021–2022
	Nominating Committee	2021–Present
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association	Member	2015– Present
Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity Pittsburgh Graduate Chapter	Member	2016– Present
Pennsylvania Pharmacist Care Network	Luminary	2018– 2020
Physician Assistant Education Association	Member	2019 – Present

SERVICE

University and School:

2017–2018	Facilitator, Community Leadership and Innovation in Practice Center Workshops, School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh
2018 – Present	Member, Alumni Board, School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh
2019 – Present	Member, Athletic Department Fan Experience Committee, University of Pittsburgh
2019 – 2021	Member, Young Alumni Council, University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association
2020 – Present	Host and volunteer, Networking with Panthers, University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association
2020 – 2021	Co–Chair, Social Media Committee, Young Alumni Council, University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association
2021 – Present	Member, Student Assessment and Advisory Committee, Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Program, University of Pittsburgh
2021– Present	Vaccinator, COVID–19 Medical Response Office PittCoVax Mass COVID–19 Vaccination Clinic
2021–2022	Secretary, Alumni Board, School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh
2022–2023	Vice President, Alumni Board, School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh
2022– Present	Committee Chair, Student and Alumni Engagement Committee. Physician Assistant Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh

2022- Present Member, Script Society, Athletic Department, University of Pittsburgh

2023- Present President, Alumni Board, School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh

Regional:

2016 – 2017 Treasurer, Allegheny County Pharmacists Association

2017 – Present Conference Volunteer and Moderator, Pennsylvania Pharmacist Association

2017 – 2018 Ambassador, Allegheny County Pharmacists Association, County Affiliate Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

2017 – 2018 Chaplain, Pittsburgh Graduate Chapter, Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc

2018 – 2020 Secretary, Allegheny County Pharmacists Association, County Affiliate Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

2018–2019 Vice–Regent, Pittsburgh Graduate Chapter, Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc

2018– Present Reviewer, Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Student Poster Presentations

2019–2021 Secretary, Pittsburgh Graduate Chapter, Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc

2020 President– Elect, Allegheny County Pharmacists Association, County Affiliate Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

2020–2021 President, Allegheny County Pharmacists Association, County Affiliate Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

2020– Present Pennsylvania Pharmacist Association Diabetes Prevention Program Pharmacy Mentor and Lifestyle Coach

2021–2022 Past–President, Allegheny County Pharmacists Association, County Affiliate Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

2021– 2023 Nominating Committee, Allegheny County Pharmacists Association, County Affiliate Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

National Service:

2019–2021 Coach, Flip the Pharmacy Pennsylvania Team

2019 Exam Writer, Medication History Certification for Pharmacy Technician, Pharmacy Technician Certification Board

2021 – Present Peer Reviewer, Conference Submissions, Physician Assistant Education Association Annual Education Forum

Community:

2021–Present Vaccinator, Allegheny County Medical Reserves Corp

2019–2021 Volunteer, Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank Distributions

Last updated: 1 May 2024