

# Strengthening our Connection

Updates for MSHSA



## Alumni in the News

Kyle Mikel, MSHSA alum, recently helped bring robot-assisted bronchoscopy to Wyoming, supporting the first procedure of its kind in the state. In reflecting on the milestone, Kyle emphasized how meaningful it was to help introduce advanced technology that improves early lung cancer detection while expanding access to high-quality care for Wyoming patients.

Kyle shared that his role focuses on supporting clinical teams during procedures and ensuring the technology is used effectively within hospital systems. He also highlighted the importance of collaboration, noting the impact of working alongside fellow University of Wyoming alumni to advance innovation in patient care. This milestone reflects how MSHSA graduates continue to apply leadership, systems thinking, and collaboration to drive meaningful change across healthcare.

Read the full article: <https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2025/06/uw-alumni-perform-first-robot-assisted-bronchoscopy-in-wyoming.html>

## Now Accepting Applications

Applications are open for the MSHSA program.  
 Spring 2026 deadline: January 13, 2026  
 PharmD students: Dual-degree pathways available  
 Designed for healthcare professionals ready to lead, influence systems, and advance their careers.  
 Apply now & share with a colleague!

## Newsletter Highlights

Alumni in the News

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A Message from the Director

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Note from Advisory Board Chair

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Fall 2025 Seminar

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Belfast, Ireland



M.S. in Health Services Administration

MSHSA@uwyo.edu

## A Message from the Director

It is time to review and reflect!

We continue to fine tune our program with the continuation of two main areas: Healthcare Leadership and Biopharmaceutical Regulation and Compliance. Each of these areas continues to be of importance in today's healthcare work environment.

Leadership has been changing rapidly in the past few years. With the implementation of AI, fast market changes, and the economy, leaders have been put to the test in many disciplines, especially healthcare. Workforce (personnel concerns), effective and efficient decision making, and growth are key areas of focus. Overlay each of these with the concerns that many have today regarding ethical practices. These are topics that we continue to discuss in our courses and in seminars.

In the biopharmaceutical area there are many pressures that are being faced by government criticism and the economics of bringing a new product to market. What is always important to remember is that the industry has helped millions of people across the globe with medications for countless disease states. The key here is that this is a highly regulated profession that continues to need employees who truly understand the environment, legal issues, and impact on patient care.

One item that we do not talk about that often is the fact that we have had the opportunity over the years to work with incredible experts in their fields. We are fortunate today to have twenty different experts across healthcare that help provide guidance, teaching, and resources for our program. They help our students integrate their education in a way that it is readily applicable to situations that our students may face at work. One of the joys is when we receive a note from a student or alumnus that states they were able to apply information from the program directly to their role.

We offered our first international immersion course this past summer in Belfast Ireland. With the success of this program, we are looking forward to providing additional opportunities for students to be able to immerse themselves for a week in a different culture and fully discuss the differences in healthcare.

We continue to explore a variety of marketing plans to attract the best and brightest. A new ambassador's program will leverage alumni and current students to chat with prospective students. Our students are the center of our program, and we are excited about the opportunities to have them chat with those who may be thinking about a MSHSA degree. We again ask that if you know a colleague or someone who could leverage our program information and degree in career advancement – please send them our way.

It is also time to celebrate the fact that we continue to reach across the US with students from over 44 states graduating from our program. In addition, our colleagues and students from Canada add a unique perspective on the healthcare environment and differences between the countries policies. This is a great indication of the reach that our students have across North America.

Wishing everyone much success as we start 2026.

Thank you to each and every one of you!



Elliott Sogol,  
Director,  
Postgraduate and  
Continuing Education

## Updates from Alumni

### Heidi Hoffman

After completing this Master's program, I was able to take on some additional work functions in my role (Senior Policy Advisor), including overseeing the Division of Healthcare Financing's role in large policy implementation projects such as the Behavioral Health Redesign and Incarcerated Youth Coverage. I have recently been heavily involved in the completion of Wyoming's Rural Health Transformation Program application, and in October was promoted to Division Chief Policy Officer/Administrator of the Policy, Administration, and Communications Section. I am thankful for the experience and knowledge from the MSHSA program and the opportunities for professional growth that opened up after graduation.

### Donovan Downey

Successful implementation of a structured compensation market review process within a Dental Service Organization helping to generate significant YOY cost-savings for the organization.

## Stay Connected with MSHSA

Follow the MSHSA program on social media to stay up to date.

We regularly share:

- Student and alumni spotlights
- Seminar and experiential learning highlights
- Program updates and application reminders
- Leadership and healthcare workforce insights

Join the conversation and stay connected with the MSHSA community:

 WyomingMastersHealthServices

 uwyo\_mshsa

 uwmslsa

## MSHSA Specialty Tracks: Updated Tracks

The MSHSA program has refined its specialty tracks to align with today's healthcare leadership and regulatory workforce needs. Tracks are organized into two core groups, allowing students to tailor their studies while maintaining a strong foundation in health services administration.

### Biopharmaceutical Regulatory Compliance Group

- Biopharmaceutical Regulatory Compliance – U.S. and global regulatory pathways across the product lifecycle
- Healthcare Risk Management – Organizational and clinical risk identification and mitigation
- Forensic Pharmacy – Pharmacy, law, and forensic science at the intersection of compliance and justice
- Biopharmaceutical Product Representation – Compliant communication of evidence and value
- Healthcare Ethics & Equity – Ethics, equity, and regulatory frameworks in healthcare systems

### Health Institution Leadership Group

- Health Institution Leadership – People, operations, and strategic leadership
- Health Economics & Outcomes – Value, cost, and outcomes-based decision making
- Healthcare Quality & Outcomes – Quality improvement, safety, and performance measurement
- Rural Healthcare Coordination – Access, coordination, and workforce solutions for rural care
- Healthcare Entrepreneurism – Innovation, new ventures, and service development



Donovan Downey  
MSHSA, sHRBP  
Chair  
MSHSA Advisory Board

## Note from Advisory Board Chair

As we move through another season of growth and reflection, I'm reminded of the vital role leadership plays in advancing healthcare and strengthening the communities we all serve.

For our alumni, your continued contributions across hospitals, public health systems, and the many industries that support patient care demonstrate the far-reaching influence of effective leadership. The lessons learned here — collaboration, compassion, and accountability — continue to shape not only clinical outcomes but the culture of care itself.

For our prospective students, you are entering a field that demands both heart and vision. Leadership in healthcare today extends well beyond organizational boundaries; it touches policy, technology, finance, and every sector that influences how care is delivered. The future of quality patient care depends on leaders who can integrate these dimensions with integrity and purpose.

Together, we share a common mission: to ensure that our work — and our leadership — continues to improve the lives of patients and strengthen the health of all our communities.

## MSHSA Ambassador Program: Get Involved

The MSHSA Ambassador Program offers students and alumni an opportunity to support the program while strengthening professional connections and leadership skills.

### Ambassadors help:

- Share their MSHSA experience with prospective students
- Participate in outreach, events, and program promotion
- Strengthen connections between current students, alumni, and the MSHSA community

This is a meaningful way to stay engaged, give back, and help shape the future of the program— while building professional visibility and leadership experience.

Interested in becoming an MSHSA Ambassador or learning more?

Email [MSHSA@uwyo.edu](mailto:MSHSA@uwyo.edu)

## MSHSA Advisory Board: Strengthening Program Direction & Engagement

The MSHSA Advisory Board plays a key role in shaping the program’s continued growth and relevance. Over the past year, board members have been actively engaged in:

- Reviewing and refining specialty tracks to align with evolving workforce needs

- Providing input on curriculum relevance, emerging healthcare trends, and leadership competencies

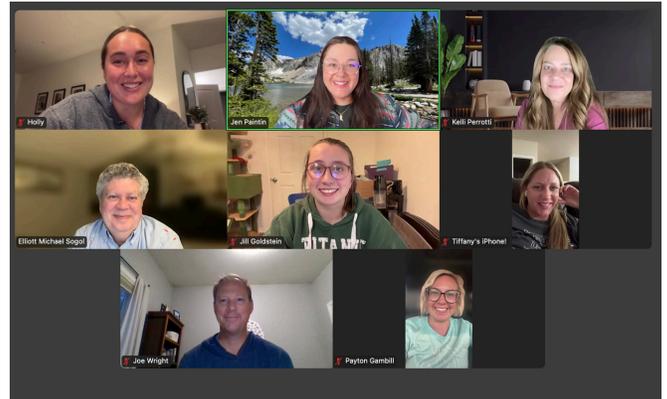
- Supporting student success, professional development, and program visibility

New this year: the Advisory Board launched an Alumni Engagement Committee, focused on strengthening connections between alumni, current students, and the program. This committee will support alumni spotlights, mentorship opportunities, networking, and ways to keep graduates meaningfully connected to MSHSA.

Interested in joining?

We welcome alumni, healthcare leaders, and industry professionals who are interested in contributing their expertise and helping guide the future of the MSHSA program. Advisory Board participation is a meaningful way to stay connected, share insights from practice, and support the next generation of healthcare leaders.

Learn more or express interest in joining the MSHSA Advisory Board by contacting [MSHSA@uwyo.edu](mailto:MSHSA@uwyo.edu)



## Online Elective Courses for PharmD Students

Looking for flexible, high-impact electives—or know a student who is?

The University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy offers online, asynchronous elective courses designed for PharmD and graduate pharmacy students nationwide (with home-school approval). These 2-credit courses fit easily alongside professional schedules and explore timely topics at the intersection of pharmacy practice, law, and public health.

Why consider these courses?

- Fully online, asynchronous format
- 11-week Fall & Spring terms
- No required textbooks
- Practice-relevant topics led by experienced faculty

Current Course Offerings:

- Pharmaceutical Homicide
- The Opioid Crisis
- Regulating Dangerous Drug Use
- Medication Malpractice

Register yourself or share this opportunity with PharmD students who may be seeking approved electives outside their home institution.

Email David Brushwood for more information: [dbrushwo@uwyo.edu](mailto:dbrushwo@uwyo.edu)

## Fall 2025 Seminar: Disaster Relief & Emergency Preparedness

The Fall 2025 MSHSA Seminar centered on Disaster Relief and Emergency Preparedness, using a high-intensity simulation grounded in the realities of rural healthcare in Wyoming.

Students were placed inside a rapidly evolving wildfire scenario in which a massive forest fire moved toward three rural communities. Divided into functional leadership roles—County Commissioners, EMS leadership, and Hospital administrators—students worked in separate rooms to manage healthcare response, establish triage operations, allocate limited resources, and coordinate care under pressure.

A centralized command center was created to manage communication, track casualties, and monitor available resources. As the simulation progressed, conditions intensified: phone lines failed, cell service was lost, two towns required evacuation, and every ten minutes of class time represented one hour of real-world fire progression.

This simulation was intentionally selected to reflect challenges frequently faced in Wyoming, where forest fires can significantly impact rural and resource-limited communities. Students gained firsthand insight into how emergencies affect communities differently based on size, infrastructure, and available healthcare services—and the critical importance of accurate, timely, and detailed communication during a crisis.



### Student Reflections

“The seminar provided meaningful discussions with both peers and professors, enriching my understanding of the subject. As an online student, it also fostered a deeper sense of connection with my classmates, which I truly valued.”

— Roxann Shumaker

“As someone training in public health and serving in the WYARNG, the MSHSA seminar helped bridge my academic knowledge with real-world emergency response. It was an eye-opening experience that strengthened my confidence in leading through crisis.”

— Ashton Walther

The Fall Seminar exemplified what defines the MSHSA program—hands-on, experiential learning that prepares students not just to manage healthcare systems, but to lead decisively when it matters most.

## Belfast, Ireland: Global Perspectives on Healthcare & Conflict

From June 22–28, 2025, MSHSA students and faculty participated in an international learning experience in Belfast, Ireland, examining how historical conflict and peace processes have shaped healthcare systems, policy, and community well-being.

Prior to travel, learners completed an online preparatory course—Belfast: History of Conflict and Impact on Healthcare (UW Online Course – PHCY 5160-40)—which provided essential historical, political, and healthcare context to support deeper engagement during the in-country experience.



Together, the online coursework and immersive travel experience explored:

- The impact of conflict and reconciliation on healthcare delivery
- Health system resilience, equity, and population health
- Global perspectives on leadership, policy, and care coordination

Watch for future study abroad opportunities led by Elliott Sogol, offering additional global learning experiences for MSHSA and health-profession learners.



### Pharmacy & Nursing Advisory Boards: Get Involved

The University of Wyoming Health Professionals Continuing Education Group is seeking pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and nurses to join our Pharmacy Advisory Board and Nursing Advisory Board.



Advisory board members help shape the future of continuing education by:

- Identifying emerging practice gaps and workforce needs
- Providing professional insight to strengthen CE programs
- Reviewing processes and resources that support learners and high-quality education

What to expect:

- Two meetings per year (approximately 2 hours each)
- Opportunity to influence pharmacy-, nursing-, and interprofessional CE
- Engagement with a nationally accredited CE provider (ACPE & ANCC)

Whether you're interested in contributing your expertise—or sharing this opportunity with a colleague—we invite you to get involved.

Interested in serving or learning more? Contact Jen Paintin: [jpaintin@uwyo.edu](mailto:jpaintin@uwyo.edu)

