

## Newsletter from the University of Florida Online Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy Program



### FACULTY INTERVIEW: Laura E. Happe, PharmD, MPH.

Dr. Laura Happe began her affiliation with the department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy in February 2019. Before joining as Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor, Dr. Happe held the position of Chief Pharmacy Officer for Humana.

Laura received her PharmD from Creighton University in Omaha,

Nebraska, and her MPH from the University of South Florida in Tampa and completed an HEOR Fellowship through Xcenda.

Laura's other teaching credentials prior to joining UF POP include Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy, and she precepted students from UF and Palm Beach Atlantic.



#### Join our new LinkedIn Group:

University of Florida Online POP Alumni  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12151395/>



#### Register for the next Live Informational Webinar

June 26, 2019, 12 Noon - 1 P.M.

**[Click here to register.](#)**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#### Faculty Interview:



Meet Laura E. Happe, PharmD, MPH, Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor with the Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy.

#### Employer Partnerships:

The Online POP graduate program partners with employers and associations to offer distance education to multiple employees, at a discount. Contact **Heather Steingraber** to partner with us.

#### Member Benefits for Online POP Graduate Program (M.S. program only):



Academy of  
Managed Care  
Pharmacy®

Members get  
50% off first and  
last course.



International  
Society  
for Medical  
Publication  
Professionals™

Members get  
50% off first and  
last course.



ASHP Foundation

Upon completion of  
ASHP Foundation's  
Pharmacy Leader-  
ship Academy (PLA),  
earn 6 graduate  
credits tuition-free.

## Interview with Laura E. Happe, PharmD, MPH

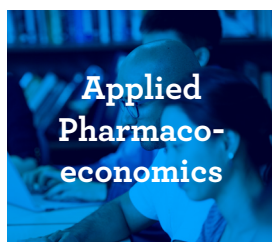
### What made you interested in the position of Track Director of Managed Care Pharmacy Systems at UF?

I've spent my whole career working in and around managed care pharmacy. During this time, one thing has stayed constant: a high demand for professionals who understand the science and the business. By leading this track, I can help shape the next generation of professionals who will meet this demand and advance our profession.

### How do you define your teaching philosophy?

Managed care pharmacy is about balancing quality, costs and access to medications, all while running a business. The challenges we face in pursuit of this balance are complex, and our decisions have far-reaching implications. My goal is to prepare professionals who can approach tomorrow's problems with innovation, evidence, collaboration, and patient-centricity. This requires a curriculum that is focused on practical application, not memorization of facts.

Thus, my philosophy is to provide students with the necessary foundational knowledge and then work through real-world challenges managed care pharmacy professionals face today. The process for solving these problems is more important than the solutions we reach in the classroom. As our graduates enter practice, the problems they face will evolve, but the skills to find innovative solutions will endure.



### What unique perspectives do you bring to the Managed Care Pharmacy Systems specialty track and to the UF POP graduate program overall?

I see the world through the lens of a researcher. I am always looking for data to support my decisions, from buying a car to determining my position on a policy. This is the point of view that I bring to all of my professional roles, including the University of Florida.

As the editor in chief of the *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy*, I have wide visibility into the research that is being conducted in our profession. This is the research that is needed to drive managed care decisions. I hope to impart this thought process upon the students in our programs, inspiring them to ask questions of the data.

“As our access to rapid analytics improves, we need managed care professionals who can ask the right questions to make better decisions.”

Academic rigor with commercial application.  
Online. Flexible. Real-world.



## Interview with Laura E. Happe, PharmD, MPH



### Why did you choose pharmacy as your area of specialty?

My dad is a pharmacist, so I grew up in a quintessential small town drug store. It wasn't until my third year of pharmacy school that I realized that I was driven more by project-based work than the operational work in most pharmacies. This led me to pursue research rotations during my final year of pharmacy school. While at the University of Pittsburgh, I discovered outcomes research and I haven't looked back.

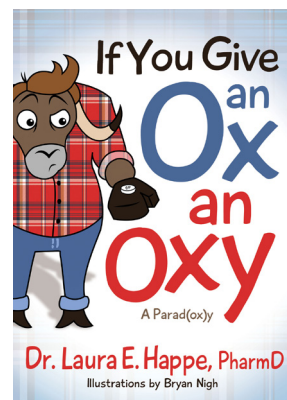
### When you were in graduate school, tell us about a particularly challenging experience and how you handled it?

When I was working on my Master's in public health, two of my classes were SAS programming. They were a huge struggle for me. It was like learning a foreign language but without having the English translation of the words. I think one of the biggest barriers was that I didn't see the big picture, or what we were trying to accomplish by typing *proc freq*. I've often wished I could go back and take those classes again, as I have such high respect for my programming colleagues. But I learned a valuable lesson for my classroom...don't skip the forest and dive right into the trees.

### I hear you have several other "jobs". Can you tell me about those and why you were drawn to pursue these?

I am in a unique situation where I am able to split my time in a few different complimentary roles. In addition to my position at UF, I'm the editor in chief of the *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy* and I teach the population health curriculum at Wingate University in North Carolina. Managing multiple roles can be overwhelming at times, but ultimately I am more effective professionally because of it.

I've also recently published my first book, titled *If You Give an Ox an Oxy*. As a parent, I noticed that there were no good resources to talk to kids about the dangers of opioids. Given my experience leading an opioid task force at a health plan, I challenged myself to fill this gap. I knew nothing about publishing a book, but I set out to learn. A few short months later, I had a publisher, an illustrator, and a timeline. My book is now in pre-sales status and will be launched in bookstores in November. I hope that it will help educate today's youth about the hazards of opioids, in an approachable and memorable way.



### Tell us about a memorable experience you've had in pharmacy.

One of my favorite travel experiences was during pharmacy school. Creighton sent teams of health professionals and students to set up medical clinics in very rural areas during the summer. We treated scabies, pulled teeth, and sewed up machete wounds. We lived with host families and bathed in rivers. Through this experience, I learned more about our shared humanity than our differences. My dad accompanied me for part of the summer, and that was really special.

Academic rigor with commercial application.  
Online. Flexible. Real-world.

Interview with Laura E. Happe, PharmD, MPH



## What is your favorite thing to do in your free time?

My husband and I like to stay very active with our two kids, ages 9 and 12. They are involved in lots of activities, so we spend a lot of our time chasing after them. We love hiking, boating, skiing, and traveling. Being active and being outside is therapeutic.

# POPtopics

Would you like to be interviewed for POP Topics and share how the UF POP program changed your life and career? [Click here!](#)

Learn more at <https://onlinepop.pharmacy.ufl.edu/>

Award-winning  
faculty



Refer a student:

**UF** Click Here

Academic rigor with commercial application.  
Online. Flexible. Real-world.