



## In The Spotlight – September 2009



**Amy Stachowiak** graduated from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1992. She is currently practicing as a Clinical Pharmacist at Poudre Valley Hospital in sunny Fort Collins, CO. Since receiving her degree, Amy has followed her husband, a US Marine, all over the country. She has been afforded the opportunity to experience a variety of work experiences in many diverse settings including small rural hospital, a military hospital, and a large pediatric medical center all over the country. She has assumed many different roles thus far in her career including Staff Pharmacist, Pharmacy Team Leader, Retail Pharmacist, Director of Pharmacy, and Clinical Pharmacist. As an avid dog lover, Food Network junkie, mystery novel fan, and recycling fanatic, Amy shares her life with husband, Coby Leuschke, canine child, Chloe, and two feline children, Iris and Daisy.

### **What motivates and inspires you about your position/profession?**

The dichotomy of hard core science combined with the softer side of helping people. The role of a pharmacist is continuing to evolve (supported by ASHP's 2015 Initiative) to embody a patient centered, outcomes-oriented practice of pharmacy. The day to day occurrence in a hospital setting is an intense and rewarding experience. It is satisfying to be a contributing member of the healthcare team by offering guidance to physicians and other healthcare practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications. While on the opposite end of the continuum, it is equally rewarding to interact with patients and answer their questions about medications so they can become more knowledgeable consumers. However, to sum it up, motivators with the most positive impact for me are having autonomy in my clinical practice along with an acceptable work-life balance.

### **What does ASHP membership mean to you?**

ASHP means community to me. In this group I can interact with teachers, friends, students, mentors, and leaders as well as followers. The sharing of information and feedback with this community helps me personally "keep an eye" on what's going on in pharmaceutical industry as well as within our pharmacy profession. I can't count the number of times when an issue has emerged, and I could assist with resolving it or at the very least, recalling some bit of technological information, just because I had seen a presentation on it or saw a question from a member of the ASHP community on the SICP, or other Section, Listserver. With that said, it is personally rewarding to be able to demonstrate the use of research based practice to peers as well as to administrative staff when offering suggestions for solving a problem. In the end, however, teamwork-as in

the ASHP tagline: *Together...we make a great team-* is the sum of our, and certainly mine, most meaningful experiences.