

## **CPA Rising Pharmacist Spotlight: June 2022**

**Name and title:** Matthew Merola, PharmD

**Current position:** Specialty Clinical Pharmacist II at Outpatient Pharmacy Services at YNHH

**Years in practice:** 5 years (7/2022)

**Inspiration to practice pharmacy:**

When I was in high school, I loved biology/chemistry and knew I wanted to pursue a career focused in one of those areas. I came across an article on careers with great opportunities after college graduation, and Pharmacy was #1 on the list. During freshman orientation at UConn, the first friend I made was also pursuing pharmacy. His grandfather had graduated from UConn School of Pharmacy, and his father owned a compounding pharmacy. I took this as a sign to pursue a career in Pharmacy, and I am glad I made the right choice!



**Proudest accomplishment:**

- James T. Malaney Jr Community Service Award (UConn) for the activist group created by myself, fellow UConn students, and Dr. Jill Fitzgerald. We were an integral part in advocating for UConn first responders to carry Naloxone.
- YNHH system-wide RX Star of the Month

**Future aspirations:**

- Graduate from UConn MBA program majoring in Finance by Spring '24
- Advance my career at YNHH in more business-oriented Pharmacy role(s)
- Invest in multi-family real estate
- Get married (December 2022) to my fiancé Alexandra & start a family of my own

**Fun Fact:** When I was 12, I won the equivalent of the “Little League World Series” for Hockey in Quebec, Canada with the '93 CT Wolves

**CPA Pharmacist Member since:** 2019

