


February 25, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees 

FROM: Pamir Alpay, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Proposal to Rename the School of Pharmacy to the School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation to rename the School of Pharmacy to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

RESOLUTION:

“Be it resolved that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to rename the School of Pharmacy to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.”

BACKGROUND:

The School of Pharmacy has a long-standing and distinguished history at the University of Connecticut, with a comprehensive academic mission that encompasses professional pharmacy education, graduate education, and a nationally recognized research enterprise in the pharmaceutical sciences. Over time, the scope, scale, and impact of the School’s research and graduate programs in pharmaceutics, medicinal chemistry, pharmacology and toxicology, outcomes research, regulatory science, and related fields have expanded significantly.

While these pharmaceutical sciences activities are central to the School’s identity, impact, and external reputation, they are not explicitly reflected in the current name. As the School continues to grow its research portfolio, interdisciplinary collaborations, and graduate training programs, the existing name no longer fully captures the breadth of its academic mission.

The proposed name more accurately reflects the full scope of the School's academic mission and aligns with the University's strategic priorities related to academic excellence, research innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, workforce development, and societal impact. As the School continues to expand its research portfolio and graduate training programs, the revised name enhances clarity and visibility among peer and aspirational institutions, supports faculty and student recruitment, and strengthens engagement with external partners, funding agencies, alumni, and donors.

The proposed change has received unanimous support from the School's faculty, who voted in favor of the renaming in September 2025. The renaming will not require additional resources and will have minimal operational or financial impact. There are no changes to academic programs, accreditation status, faculty appointments, governance, or organizational structure, and required updates to signage, communications, and official materials will be implemented in a phased manner within existing resources. The proposed name change does not affect accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education or other regulatory bodies and can be implemented without disruption to existing programs.

Executive Summary

This proposal requests approval to rename the University of Connecticut's (UConn) **School of Pharmacy** as the **School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences** (hereinafter "the School"). The proposed name more accurately reflects the School's comprehensive mission encompassing professional pharmacy education, graduate education, and a nationally recognized research enterprise in the pharmaceutical sciences. The change aligns with the UConn's strategic priorities related to academic excellence, research innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, workforce development, and societal impact.

The School's faculty voted unanimously in September 2025 to support the name change, as documented in the official faculty meeting minutes. The proposed change entails minimal operational or financial impact, does not affect accreditation or academic programs, and will enhance clarity, visibility, and competitiveness among peer institutions and external stakeholders.

Proposal to Rename the School of Pharmacy

Proposed Name

School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Submitted by

Philip M. Hritcko, Pharm.D., FCPA
Dean & Clinical Professor, UConn School of Pharmacy

Purpose of the Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to formally request approval to change the name of the **School of Pharmacy** to the **School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences**. This proposed name more accurately reflects the full scope, mission, and contemporary activities of the School, encompassing professional pharmacy education, graduate education, and a broad and nationally recognized portfolio of pharmaceutical sciences research.

Background and Context

Since its founding, the School of Pharmacy has evolved into a comprehensive academic unit with dual and deeply integrated missions: (1) the education and training of future pharmacists and (2) the advancement of pharmaceutical sciences through research,

graduate education, and translational innovation. Today, the School houses robust programs in pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemistry, pharmacology and toxicology, outcomes research, regulatory science, and related disciplines, alongside the professional Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program.

While these pharmaceutical sciences activities are central to the School's identity, impact, and reputation, they are not explicitly conveyed in the current name. As the School continues to expand its research enterprise, interdisciplinary collaborations, and graduate training programs, the existing name no longer fully captures the breadth of its academic mission.

Rationale for the Name Change

The proposed name change is grounded in several key considerations that align closely with the University of Connecticut's strategic plan and institutional priorities:

1. **Academic Excellence and Comprehensive Mission**

The inclusion of *Pharmaceutical Sciences* explicitly recognizes the School's broad academic portfolio, including professional education, graduate training, and a strong foundation of basic, translational, and applied research. This more accurately represents the School's full contribution to UConn's academic enterprise.

2. **Research, Scholarship, and Innovation**

The revised name highlights the School's significant and growing role in discovery, innovation, and translational science, key pillars of UConn's research strategy. It underscores faculty leadership in securing extramural funding, advancing interdisciplinary research, and translating discoveries to improve health outcomes.

3. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Workforce Development**

Explicit recognition of pharmaceutical sciences strengthens the School's visibility as a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration across UConn and with external partners in academia, industry, and government. It also clarifies the School's role in training a highly skilled biomedical and pharmaceutical workforce aligned with state, national, and global needs.

4. **Visibility, Reputation, and External Engagement**

A name that clearly conveys the School's dual focus enhances institutional reputation, supports faculty and student recruitment, and strengthens engagement with alumni, donors, industry partners, and funding agencies. It positions the School competitively among peer and aspirational institutions.

5. **Strategic Alignment and Future Growth**

The proposed name supports UConn's long-term goals related to innovation, economic development, public impact, and global engagement, while preserving the School's strong identity in professional pharmacy education.

Faculty Support and Governance

The proposed name change has received unanimous support from the faculty of the School of Pharmacy. A formal vote was held during the School's faculty meeting in September 2025, and the outcome is documented in the official September 2025 faculty meeting minutes. This consensus reflects broad faculty agreement that the revised name is timely, appropriate, and beneficial to the School's mission and future direction.

Impact on Resources and Operations

The proposed name change is expected to have minimal impact on resources and operations:

- **Academic Programs:** No changes are proposed to existing degree programs, curricula, accreditation status, or academic requirements. All current programs will continue unchanged under the revised name.
- **Faculty and Staff Appointments:** Faculty titles, appointments, and departmental structures will remain unchanged. The name change does not alter governance, reporting lines, or organizational structure.
- **Budgetary Impact:** Costs associated with the name change are expected to be modest and manageable within existing resources. These may include phased updates to signage, websites, marketing materials, and official documents, which can be implemented over time to minimize expense.
- **Accreditation and Compliance:** The proposed name change does not affect accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or other regulatory or accrediting bodies. Required notifications and updates will be handled through established institutional processes.
- **External Relationships:** The revised name is expected to enhance clarity and recognition among external stakeholders, including funding agencies, alumni, industry partners, and collaborators, without disrupting existing relationships.

Implementation Considerations

Upon approval, the School will work in coordination with University leadership and relevant administrative offices to: Update official University records and publications; revise digital and print communications in a phased manner; notify accrediting bodies, external partners, and stakeholders as appropriate; and ensure consistency in branding and messaging across platforms.

Conclusion

Renaming UConn's School of Pharmacy to the **School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences** is a strategic, faculty-endorsed initiative that aligns with the University of Connecticut's mission and strategic plan. The proposed change more accurately reflects the School's academic breadth, research intensity, and societal impact, while positioning

it for continued growth, innovation, and national leadership. The name change can be implemented with minimal operational or financial impact and without disruption to existing programs or accreditation.

Letter of Support for the Proposed Renaming of the UConn School of Pharmacy

From Mary Inguanti, Chair, Dean's Advisory Board & President, School of Pharmacy Alumni Board

To: Office of the Provost University of Connecticut

January 14, 2026

I am writing in my capacities as Chair of the Dean's Advisory Board and President of the School of Pharmacy Alumni Board to convey formal support for the proposal to rename the UConn School of Pharmacy as the UConn School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Both advisory bodies I represent have had extensive engagement with the School's leadership, faculty, and strategic planning efforts. Based on this work, we concur that the proposed name more accurately reflects the School's comprehensive academic mission and its significant contributions to the University's research and innovation portfolio. The current name, while historically meaningful, no longer captures the breadth of the School's activities in pharmaceutical sciences, graduate education, and interdisciplinary research.

The School's faculty voted unanimously in September 2025 to endorse the name change, demonstrating clear internal consensus that the revised name is timely, appropriate, and aligned with the School's trajectory. The proposed name acknowledges the nationally recognized research enterprise in pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemistry, pharmacology and toxicology, outcomes research, and regulatory science, all of which are central to the School's identity and impact.

From the perspective of the Dean's Advisory Board, the revised name strengthens the School's alignment with UConn's institutional priorities in academic excellence, research innovation, economic development, and global engagement. It enhances the School's visibility among peer institutions, supports competitive faculty and student recruitment, and reinforces its role as a key contributor to the University's research mission.

From the vantage point of the Alumni Board, the proposed name provides clarity and distinction for more than a century of graduates whose careers span clinical practice, industry, academia, and government service. A name that reflects the full scope of the School's academic and scientific enterprise strengthens alumni engagement, supports philanthropic initiatives, and elevates the School's reputation among external partners and stakeholders.

Importantly, the proposed change carries minimal operational or financial impact. It does not alter academic programs, accreditation status, faculty appointments, or organizational structure. Required updates to signage, communications, and official materials can be implemented in a phased and cost-effective manner.

For these reasons, and with the full support of both advisory bodies, I respectfully and strongly endorse the renaming of the School as the UConn School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. This change accurately reflects the School's academic breadth, research intensity, and societal contributions, and positions it for continued growth and national leadership.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Mary Inguanti R.Ph., MPH, FACHE

Chair, Dean's Advisory Board

President, School of Pharmacy Alumni Board

RESOLUTION RE:
PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY TO THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to rename the School of Pharmacy to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. It is hereby certified that the foregoing resolution was duly authorized by the Board of Trustees on February 25, 2026.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing resolution was duly authorized by the Board of Trustees on February 25, 2026.

Bryan K. Pollard, Secretary

Date