News

UConn pharmacy students, police to host drug take-back event Wednesday

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STORRS — The University of Connecticut's student chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, in collaboration with the UConn Police Department, will host a drug take-back event today from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The event invites community members to safely dispose of expired, unused or unwanted medications. It will take place in the UConn Police Department lobby at 125 N. Eagleville Road.

UConn Police Sgt. Justin Cheney and canine officer Jazmine will be in attendance. The first 20 participants will also receive free popcorn, according to the Instagram annoucement about the event.

Improper medication disposal can lead to prescription drug misuse, particularly when unused medications become accessible to individuals without valid prescriptions.

According to Megan Prescott, a UConn doctor of pharmacy candidate and president of Student College of Clinal Pharmacy, certain prescription medications pose significant risks when they are no longer needed.

"A lot of medications that are given post-surgery to patients, such as narcotics or benzodiazepines, have high addiction potential," Prescott said. "It is important that these medications are properly disposed of when the person taking them no longer needs them, to avoid any bad situations down the road."

Prescription stimulants, including Adderall and Ritalin, are commonly prescribed to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. These medications are classified as Schedule II controlled substances under federal law because of their potential for misuse and dependence.

Distributing prescription stimulants without authorization can result in criminal penalties. Taking these medications without medical supervision can also pose serious health risks, including cardiovascular complications and dependence.

In addition to preventing misuse, proper medication disposal can help reduce pharmaceutical contamination in waterways.

"Some medications are safe to be flushed down the toilet or mixed with coffee grounds and thrown away in the regular trash but others can have negative environmental impacts if disposed of in that way," Prescott said.

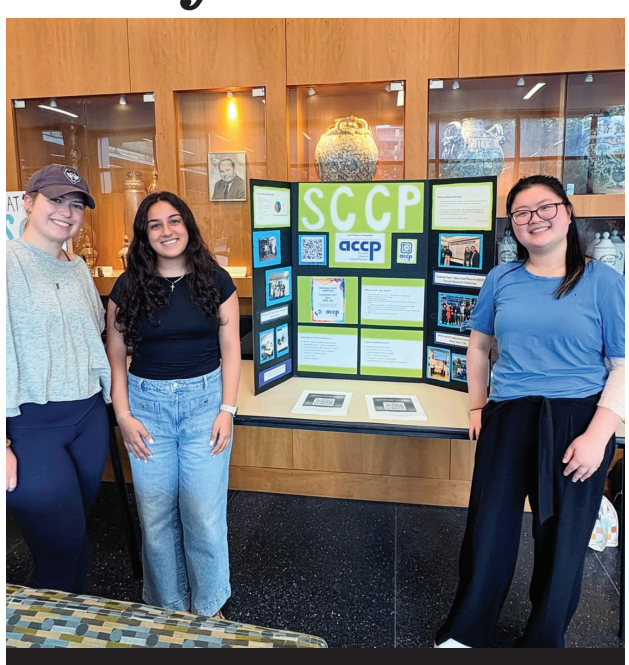
The Food and Drug Administration recommends flushing certain high-risk medications only when a drug take-back option is not readily available. These medications are identified on the FDA's flush list.

Medications flushed down toilets can introduce pharmaceutical compounds into waterways. Although environmental risks vary depending on the medication and its concentration, some compounds have been linked to adverse effects on aquatic organisms, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Antibiotics entering waterways can also contribute to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, posing additional environmental and public health concerns.

Collected medications are transported for secure destruction, often through high-temperature incineration, rather than disposal in landfills or waterways, according to the EPA.

During a nationwide drug take-back event in October 2025, approximately 286 tons of medications were collected, according to figures from the Drug Enforcement Administration.



Students a part of UConn SCCP posed in front of a presentation board for their organization. Pharmacy related clubs and organizations came together to UConn Pharmacy Student Government's ice cream social on Sept. 8, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN_PSG ON INSTAGRAM

Meta debuts Muse Wonder, its most advanced AI model yet

by Keren Salazar Mercado
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Meta announced the debut of two new artificial intelligence models, Muse Wonder and Muse Wonder Full on Monday. The company stated that it's the most advanced model yet, according to The New York Times.

Muse Wonder and Muse Wonder Full are on par with competitor Anthropic with advanced models on testing, reasoning, writing and coding according to The New York Times. These results have been provided by Meta and have not been independently verified.

Meta has stated that Muse Wonder is the first model that is competing with "frontier" AI models, which are powerful systems and usually require the most computing power to run on, Times reported.

Users of Meta's Muse personal agent app will need a monthly subscription of $20 or $100 to access Muse Wonder, according to CNBC. They reported how the release is part of Meta's effort to build AI revenue outside its online advertising business.

Meta's new AI assistant named Agrippa taking a selfie. Zuckerberg created Agrippa to be a personal AI agent.

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Muse Wonder Full, the more powerful version, will only be available to subscribers of Muse Code, which is Meta's AI coding tool, according to Times. CNBC reported those plans cost $50 or $200 per month.

Muse is an AI agent, which means it can operate apps and software on a user's behalf. Its reached the top of Apple's App Store after launching last month, according to both Times and CNBC.

Alexandr Wang, Meta's chief AI officer, told CNBC the company trained the model so agents don't stall on tasks such as booking dinner reservations. He mentioned that the model was built to "try other approaches instead of stalling," when it reached obstacles.

This new launch also comes as concerns grow over advanced AI agents, some of which have hacked into companies and altered government websites, according to Times. Blog posts from Meta have stated that Muse Wonder has its strongest safeguards against cyber misuse so far, CNBC reported. These protections come only with the paid model.

Some Muse users have complained on social media that the agent accessed their personal messages without permission, according to CNBC. Meta has disputed the claims and Wang said users may have given permission earlier in conversation and forgotten. The company is now focusing on educating users.

The models were delayed after Meta paused a stage of development called pre-training in July, according to Times. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerburg teased the release on an Instagram livestream, noting that a "big watermelon" was on the menu while he barbecued. The models were internally codenamed Watermelon.

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