



## INNOVATION

– The introduction of something new. A change that creates a new dimension of performance.

“PCCA embodies the past, present and future of pharmacy. PCCA allows pharmacists to continue to compound through dedication to innovation. They are finding better, more efficient ways to compound through the sourcing of chemicals and equipment and by developing new formulas. PCCA works to educate pharmacists as well as prescribers, and serves as a voice for patients and for the profession of pharmacy. To me, the name PCCA is synonymous with innovation. I strive to embody the principles upheld by PCCA, and to incorporate those principles into my business.” — *Lee Ori, PharmD*



Lee Ori, PharmD

Lee Ori opened his compounding-only pharmacy, Specialty Pharmacy of St. Louis in Creve Coeur, Mo., in 2003. Located near five different hospitals and numerous medical professional buildings, the pharmacy features a compounding lab, a consultation room, a cleanroom, and a retail area where nutritional and wellness products are sold. A longevity physician also practices in the pharmacy, treating menopause, andropause, adrenal fatigue, nutrition and wellness, and prescribes compounds and nutritionals to support these areas.

“While at Auburn University School of Pharmacy, I attended PCCA’s pharmacy student course,” says Lee. “Owning and operating my own compounding-only pharmacy had become a dream of mine. After graduating, I took a job in pharmaceutical sales with Eli Lilly and Co., and quickly realized that there was a viable market for a compounding-only in my area. I saved my money, joined PCCA, opened my pharmacy, and here I am today.

“Compounding has allowed me to truly practice pharmacy and help find innovative solutions for patients’ needs. The daily challenge and the personal and professional rewards are what led me to compounding.

With focused marketing, advanced education and PCCA’s continued support, we now have grown the business to more than 70 compounds per day. We’re able to spend time with patients, listen to their problems, and working with their physicians, we can help them to improve their conditions. Innovation has been key to our practice’s success. We provide hormone and nutritional consultations, medication management, and work with patients dealing with diabetes and hypertension.”

Specialty Pharmacy’s staff treats many autistic patients as well. “Parents tell us that the medications we provide their children help them function better. We prepared a fluoxetine chocolate compound for an autistic patient who wouldn’t take his medication. Now he takes his medication every day and thinks he’s getting a treat!”

Rewarding patient stories are the norm at Lee’s pharmacy. The ones that hit close to home are especially meaningful for Lee and his staff, as Sue Kuenker, a compounding pharmacy technician at Lee’s pharmacy, relates. “My father had fallen and broken his hip and was recuperating in a nursing home when sores on his left foot developed. The sores progressed to the point that his physicians wanted to amputate his left leg above the knee. This was bad enough but things were complicated even further because of a massive stroke my father had suffered 31 years before which had affected his left side. The doctors wanted to amputate on a Friday, but my Dad said, ‘Let’s wait until Monday and give God a chance to work his miracles.’ I sent out an e-mail to all of my friends including Lee asking them to keep my father in their prayers. Lee e-mailed me right back and said there might be something we can do to help. We discussed the case with a PCCA consultant and together came up with some compounded options. Lee presented the information to my Dad’s physicians and they agreed to give us two weeks to try the compounded med and postponed the scheduled amputation. After two weeks, the physicians agreed that since the sores had not worsened they would give us another couple of weeks. Well, things kept improving until the wounds were completely healed, the doctors were astonished and my Dad was able to save his leg. On behalf of myself, my family and especially, my Dad, we owe Lee Ori and PCCA a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to repay.”