

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA San Diego Healthcare System



PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Programs



VA San Diego Healthcare System

VHA Mission Honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.

VHA Vision

VHA will continue to be the benchmark of excellence and value in health care and benefits by providing exemplary services that are both patient centered and evidence based.

- This care will be delivered by engaged, collaborative teams in an integrated environment that supports learning, discovery and continuous improvement.
- It will emphasize prevention and population health and contribute to the nation's well-being through education, research and service in national emergencies.

Core Values (I.C.A.R.E)

- **Integrity:** Act with high moral principle.
- **Commitment:** Work diligently to serve veterans and other beneficiaries.
- **Advocacy:** Be truly veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of veterans and other beneficiaries.
- **Respect:** Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect.
- **Excellence:** Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement.

Key Facts

- Provided high quality health care to 86,138 Veterans in the San Diego and Imperial Valley counties in fiscal year 2019 (FY19)
- Offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient health services at the medical center in La Jolla, six community-based outpatient clinics located in Chula Vista, Escondido, Imperial Valley, Mission Valley, Oceanside and Sorrento Valley and a residential rehabilitation treatment program
- Provides medical, surgical, mental health, geriatric, spinal cord injury, and advanced rehabilitation services
- Training site for 1,376 medical interns, residents and fellows, as well as 573 other health professionals from nursing, dental, dietetics and including 48 from pharmacy.

VA San Diego Healthcare System Pharmacy Service

Our Values

- **P** Patient-centric, Patience, Professional, Pro-active
- **H** Helpful, Honest
- **A** Accessible
- **R** Responsible, Respectful
- **M** Meticulous, Mentor
- **A** Accurate
- **C** Caring, Competent, Clinical, Collaborative
- **Y** Because Veterans come first

Provision of Care

- Pharmacy services provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Decentralized unit-dose service with Barcode Medication Administration, IV Additive Service, Automated Dispensing Systems, Physician Order Entry and Automated Prescription Filling
- Our Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacists, Inpatient Clinical Pharmacists, and Clinical Specialists provide a wide range of pharmaceutical care services to veterans in the inpatient and outpatient settings.

Our Staff and Preceptors

- 75 pharmacists serve as preceptors to our resident trainees
 - Most have greater than 5 years of experience serving as a preceptor to residents
 - Many are Board Certified as Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCPS), Ambulatory Care Pharmacists (BCACP), Cardiology Pharmacists (BCCP), Critical Care Pharmacists (BCCCP), Geriatric Pharmacists (BCGP), Oncology Pharmacists (BCOP) and Psychiatric Pharmacists (BCPP)
 - More than half possess Scopes of Practices which allow for prescriptive authority

Our Teaching Program

- Multiple PGY1 and PGY2 residency training programs
- Have academic relationships with two Schools of Pharmacy – University of the Pacific (UOP) and University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
- Annually provide APPEs to approximately 30 students



Poonam P. Tzorfas, Pharm.D., MBA
Chief, Pharmacy Services
poonam.tzorfas@va.gov
(858) 642-3026

Pharmacy Residency Programs

Program	Residents	Established	Accreditation
PGY1 Pharmacy - Track A General	5-6	1973	ASHP
PGY1 Managed Care	1	2008	ASHP/AMCP
PGY2 Ambulatory Care	1-2	1994	ASHP
PGY2 Critical Care	1	2007	ASHP
PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration & Leadership	1	2009	ASHP
PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy	1	2007	ASHP
PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics	1	2009	ASHP
PGY2 Oncology	1	2006	ASHP
PGY2 Pain & Palliative Care	1	2018	ASHP
PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy	2-3	2007	ASHP

Note: Many programs allow for PGY2 Early Commitment

We offer residents many opportunities to practice in several clinical settings, including our expansive ambulatory care clinics. Our affiliations with pharmacy schools at University of California, San Diego and University of the Pacific facilitate the development of teaching skills. Our preceptors are committed to supporting the residency program and assisting residents throughout the year.

We hope you will join us at the VA San Diego Healthcare System for your residency year. We look forward to receiving your application!

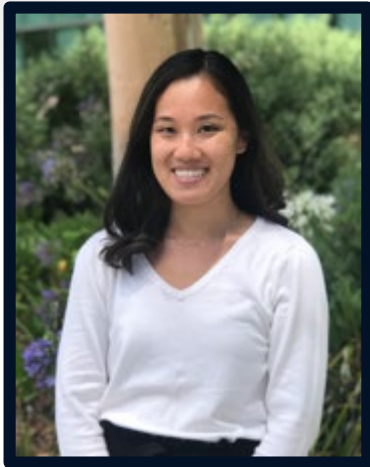


Jonathan P. Lacro, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP
Director, Pharmacy Education & Training
Program Director, PGY1 Pharmacy
jonathan.lacro@va.gov
(858) 642-3497



Thanh (Tanya) Tran, Pharm.D., BCPS
Program Director, PGY1 Managed Care
thanh.tran3@va.gov
(858) 642- 3287

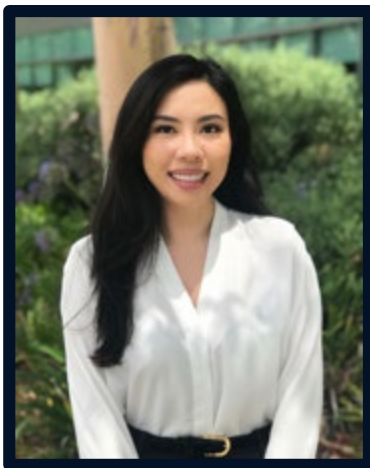
2020 - 2021 PGY1 Residents



Ereca.Nguyen@va.gov

Ereca Nguyen

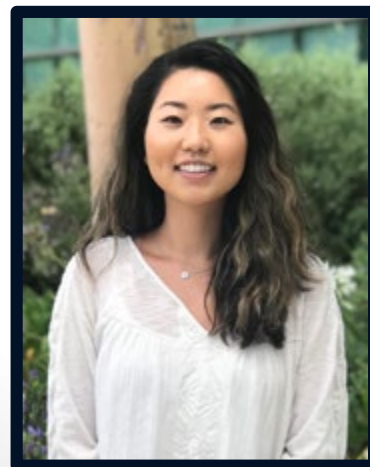
Hello everyone! I was born and raised in San Diego, CA. I majored in Biochemistry and Cell Biology at UC San Diego and completed my PharmD at UC San Francisco. I love cooking, hiking, relaxing at the beach, and traveling! I make it a goal to learn to play a new board game every week. I can also binge watch Netflix/Disney+ for hours on end. The supportive preceptors and variety of learning experiences are what really drew me to this program. I am excited to be back in San Diego and create new memories with my co-residents. My clinical interests include psychiatry and oncology.



Christie.Hoang@va.gov

Christie Hoang

Hey there! I was born and raised in Cypress, CA which is located in the sunny Orange County Area. I completed my undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences at UC Santa Barbara (Go Gauchos!) and PharmD at UC San Diego (Go Tritons!). In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, attending concerts/festivals, and trying out new restaurants. VA San Diego offers many PGY2 opportunities in a wide variety of specialties, therefore, if you're interested in specializing, VA San Diego is the right place for you! I look forward to creating life-long friendships and memories with my PGY1 and PGY2 co-residents! My clinical interests are in oncology and administration.



Esther.Hwang1@va.gov

Esther Hwang

Hello everyone! I was born in South Korea and have lived in 5 different states but currently, my family lives in Boise, Idaho (yes, I do love potatoes and no, I don't live on a potato farm). I received my undergraduate degree and PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh (#H2P). VA San Diego values a healthy work-life balance, so I've had plenty of time to explore San Diego! I enjoy checking out the top ranked restaurants on yelp to see if they live up to the hype, playing tennis, hiking, and cooking. VA San Diego offers an abundance of electives so I'm excited to expand my clinical experiences and work with the Veteran population. I couldn't have asked for a better group of PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents to spend this challenging yet fulfilling year with! My clinical interests include chronic disease state management (diabetes, hypertension, COPD, etc.).

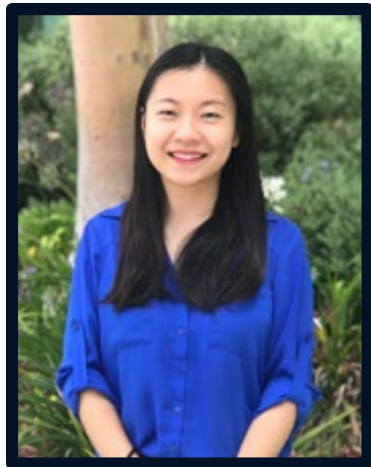
2020 - 2021 PGY1 Residents



Christopher.Ong@va.gov

Christopher Ong

Hi! I am from Walnut, CA in SoCal. I went to UC Irvine for my B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences and UC San Francisco for pharmacy school. I chose VA San Diego because of the diversity of the rotations, the vast opportunities of electives and the opportunities to expand my clinical skillset. I am excited to train at a place that fully supports my personal and professional growth. I enjoy meticulously picking the best watermelons to eat, NBA basketball (Lakers), certain eSports, hiking, and I am currently on a quest to find the best tacos and burritos in San Diego. My clinical interests include ambulatory care (diabetes, hypertension, lipids) and Informatics.



Tracy.Chen@va.gov

Tracy Chen

Hi everyone! I was born in China and moved to Temple City, California with my family when I was eleven. I received my B.S. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from UC San Diego and decided to stay here for pharmacy school as well! I chose VA San Diego because the PGY-1 residency program provides a variety of learning experiences and teaching opportunities for its residents. This year marks my 10th year living in San Diego and I am super excited to continue to explore new places and try new restaurants with my co-residents. I also love playing board games, traveling, and watching The Big Bang Theory over and over again. My clinical interests include infectious diseases and oncology.



Caylee.Sams@va.gov

Caylee Sams

Hello everyone! I am originally from Pittsburgh, PA and completed my PharmD at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, Hail to Pitt! I am thrilled to be completing my PGY1 Residency training at VA San Diego. The VA provides outstanding opportunities for pharmacists to grow clinically under scopes of practice that allow us to serve as primary providers. Outside of pharmacy, I am mostly excited to explore the hiking trails offered in San Diego and find the perfect burrito (so many options!). My hobbies include hiking, baking, brewery/winery touring (before COVID, of course). I hope to pursue a career in either Ambulatory Care or Pain, hopefully in a PACT setting down the line. You'll love your experience here and we can't wait to meet you!

General Residency Information

Pay and Benefits

Period of Appointment

- **PGY1:** 12 months, from June 28, 2021 through June 24, 2022

Estimated Stipend: \$46,030 (PGY1)

Benefits

- 13 days Annual Leave (“vacation”) and 13 days of Sick Leave
 - Leave is earned at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks
- 10 federal holidays
- Health, life, vision/dental insurance options
- Office with up-to-date computer systems
- Lab coats, lab coat laundry service, scrubs
- Free parking off-site
- Professional Meetings
 - Authorized Absence (leave with pay) to attend selected meetings
 - Partial financial support for registration fees and travel expenses to attend selected meetings

Pharmacist Licensure

Professional pharmacist licensure from any state must be obtained either prior to the beginning of the residency program or the resident must provide proof of sitting for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and Multistate Pharmacist Jurisprudent Licensure Examination (MPJE) within 30 days from the first day of their residency training and must obtain professional pharmacist licensure within 90 days from the first day of their residency program.

Note: California licensure is highly encouraged for residents who wish to rotate through or conduct direct patient care activities in non-VA facilities.

PGY1 Program Overview

PGY1

ASHP – PGY1 Program Purpose: PGY1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and outcomes to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists responsible for medication-related care of patients with a wide range of conditions, eligible for board certification, and eligible for postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training.

VA San Diego – PGY1: Develop pharmacists who are:

- Prepared to provide cost-effective pharmacotherapy to adult and geriatric patients in acute and ambulatory care settings
- Proficient in communicating with and educating trainees, pharmacists, other health care providers and the community on drug related topics
- Competitive for additional post-graduate training, i.e., PGY2 or Fellowships

PGY1 Managed Care

ASHP/AMCP PGY1 Managed Care Program Purpose: PGY1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and outcomes to develop managed care pharmacist clinicians with diverse patient care, leadership and education skills who are eligible for board certification and postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training. A managed care residency will provide systematic training of pharmacists to achieve professional competence in the delivery of patient care and managed care pharmacy practice.

VA San Diego: Develop pharmacists who are:

- Eligible for a position in a managed care setting such as:
 - Formulary Management Pharmacist, Pharmacoeconomics Specialist, Data Analytics/Informatics Pharmacist, Prior Authorization Pharmacist, Drug Information Pharmacist etc.
- Skilled in formulary management and development processes:
 - Presenting at Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee/Medication Safety Committee/Pharmacoeconomic Workgroup
 - Drafting guidance documents (conversions, protocols, criteria for use, monographs, etc.)
 - Managing clinical programs, drug utilization reviews, cost-saving initiatives, and quality improvement projects
 - Utilizing business informatics tools (i.e. SQL, Power BI, etc.) to drive formulary decisions
 - Reviewing non-formulary and prior authorization consults

PGY1 Program Structure

Overview

Orientation (2-3 weeks), 10 rotation blocks (~5 weeks each)

	PGY1 Pharmacy	PGY1 Managed Care
Rotations (# of blocks)	Administration (1) Ambulatory Care (2) Medicine (2) Critical Care (1) Psychiatry (1) Infectious Diseases (1) Electives (2)	Data Analytics Formulary Management Leadership/Management Procurement Pharmacoeconomics Quality Assurance/Drug Use Evaluation Medicine (1) Ambulatory Care (1) Electives (1)
ASHP Code	92360	92012
NMS Code	191613	153414
Positions	5-6	1

Elective Rotations	Ambulatory Care Clinics	Longitudinal Experiences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambulatory Care Cardiology Emergency Department Geriatrics/Nutrition Informatics Oncology Pain Management Nephrology Surgery Spinal Cord Injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticoagulation Chronic Heart Failure / Cardiology Diabetes Gout Lipid Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) Renal Smoking Cessation Pain management And more! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Certificate Program Formulary Consults Medication Safety Project Research Project Skill Development Series Pharmacy Practice Management

Additional Training

Pharmacy Teaching Program

- Our pharmacy residents participate in the teaching of approximately 30 Doctor of Pharmacy students from the University of the Pacific and University of California, San Diego Schools of Pharmacy
- Pharmacy Residents serve as a preceptor to APPE students during rotations by providing formal and informal teaching and mentoring
- Residents facilitate weekly conferences consisting of topic discussions and clinical case presentations

Skill Development Series / Teaching Certificate Program

- All pharmacy residents participate in a Skill Development Series, which includes regularly scheduled discussion of research-related topics such as study methodology, biostatistics, literature evaluation, individual residency research projects and other contemporary topics relevant to health care professionals
- Participation in our Teaching Certificate Program is required and consists of didactic seminars and homework assignments, development of a personal teaching philosophy and providing formal teaching experiences in clinical rotational settings

Additional Requirements for Completion of PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffing Assignments• Formal Research Project and Report• Research Platform Presentation to VISN 22 / Southern California Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows and Preceptors• Formulary Project (i.e., Drug Monograph or Drug Class Review) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1+ Monthly Adverse Drug Reaction Report• 1+ Presentation to the Opioid Safety Initiative (OSI) Committee• Continuing Education Presentation• Formal participation in P&T Committee, Medication Safety Committee or other multidisciplinary medical center committees |
|---|---|

Resident Service Commitment

Staffing will be scheduled once the resident has evidence of professional licensing and has demonstrated appropriate competencies. Training will be provided.

Staffing Requirements

PGY1 Pharmacy – General

- At least 20 inpatient days (includes 2 weekend days) during Medicine
- At least 6 days in the Ambulatory Care “Primary Care” Clinics and Outpatient Pharmacy
- Additional staffing days required during Critical Care, Psychiatry and selected elective rotations
- At least one additional weekend day scheduled for training

PGY1 Managed Care Pharmacy

- At least 15 inpatient days (includes 2 weekend days) during Medicine
- At least 4 days in the Ambulatory Care General Medicine (“Primary Care”) Clinics and Outpatient Pharmacy
- Additional staffing days may be required during selected elective rotations

VA Stand Down

- Operation Stand Down is an annual program that provides up to 900 Veterans with services such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and other service referrals. Resident will work 1 day

First Position Accepted Post-Residency (Previous 6 graduating classes)

PGY2 Residency Training Programs:

- VA San Diego Healthcare System
 - Ambulatory Care
 - Critical Care
 - Infectious Diseases
 - Oncology
 - Psychiatry
- Other VA Healthcare System
 - Population Health Management and Data Analytics / VA Sierra Pacific Network
- Academic Medical Centers
 - Ambulatory Care / Virginia Commonwealth University
 - Pharmacy Informatics / UCSF
 - Infectious Diseases / UCSF
 - Oncology / University of Colorado – Denver
- Other Health Care Organizations
 - Medication Safety / Kaiser Oakland

Pharmacy Practice Positions:

- VA San Diego Healthcare System
 - Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care
 - Clinical Pharmacist in Acute Care (Emergency Department / Medicine)
 - Clinical Pharmacist in Oncology
- Other VA Healthcare Systems
 - Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at VA Northern California Healthcare System
 - Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
 - Clinical Pharmacist in Pain Management at VA Palo Alto Healthcare System
 - Clinical Pharmacist in Quality Assurance at VA Tucson CMOP
- Other Healthcare Organizations
 - Clinical Pharmacist at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, CA
 - Clinical Pharmacist at OptumCare in Salt Lake City, UT
 - Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at Preveon Health in Colton, CA
 - Clinical Pharmacist at Scripps Mercy in San Diego, CA
 - Clinical Pharmacist at Sharp Grossmont in San Diego, CA
 - Clinical Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento, CA
 - Clinical Pharmacist at Riverside University Health System – Medical Center in Riverside, CA
 - Drug Education Coordinator - Kaiser Permanente - Vallejo (CA)
 - Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist at Anaheim Regional Medical Center (CA)
 - Managed Care Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente - Santa Clara (CA)

Former VA SD Residents: Testimonials

Former Resident	Question/Answer:
<p>Elizabeth Gramer PGY1 (2010 – 2011) PGY2 HPSAL (2011-2012)</p> <p>Current Position at VA SD: Associate Chief, Ambulatory Care</p>	<p>Why did you choose a career in the VA System? "The VA is continuously changing and that makes my job as a manager exciting. There is always something new to learn!"</p>
<p>Trisha Ung PGY1 (2006 – 2007)</p> <p>Current Position at VA SD: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Department</p>	<p>Why did you continue your career at VA San Diego? "I stayed here to continue to give back to the veterans who have worked hard to keep us and our country safe. In addition, it was a good opportunity to set up a new program in the ED as I was part of the initial group to have started in the ED."</p>
<p>Bailey Crandall PGY1 (2011 – 2012) PGY2 Oncology (2012 – 2013)</p> <p>Current Position at VA SD: PGY2 Oncology Residency Program Director and Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Oncology</p>	<p>What makes VA San Diego unique for residency training? "The working environment at VASD provides an optimal place for trainees to gain clinical experience across various practice settings. We work in an extremely collaborative environment where pharmacists are an integral part of the healthcare team. The other rewarding part about working at VASD is providing care to Veterans who have served our country."</p>
<p>Candance Ellis PGY1 (1994-1995)</p> <p>Current Position at VA SD: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Diabetes</p>	<p>Why did you choose a career at VA San Diego? "I enjoy working in a specialized pharmacy area. VA has provided many good clinical opportunities for pharmacists in managing patients/prescribing; which isn't widely available at other facilities. I also enjoy working with/helping veterans and serving as a preceptor for students/residents."</p>
<p>Serena Cheng PGY2 Ambulatory Care (2016 – 2017)</p> <p>Current Position at VA SD: PGY2 Pain & Palliative Care Residency Program Coordinator and Pain Pharmacist</p>	<p>What made you decide to continue your post-residency career at VA San Diego? "The VA has always been at the forefront of creating opportunities for pharmacist to perform at the top of their license. This means that I am able to provide better patient care, reduce medication errors, and monitor medication outcomes in my clinic as a clinical pharmacist with prescriptive authority."</p>

Rotation Experiences

Required Rotations

INTERNAL MEDICINE

The resident will provide pharmaceutical care to medicine and surgery patients with a variety of medical diseases in a general medical teaching environment. The resident will work with multidisciplinary teams including physicians, nurses, dieticians, social workers and both inpatient/outpatient pharmacists/technicians to provide excellent patient care.

During the staffing component of the rotation, the resident will be trained for at least 3 weeks to demonstrate competency to independently staff the unit. The resident will become familiar to staff both inpatient and transitions of care when assigned.

During the rounding component of the rotation, the resident serves as the primary pharmacist on a medicine team and is responsible for order verification and other clinical duties including rounding with the medicine team.

CRITICAL CARE

The resident will develop and provide specialized pharmaceutical care to critically ill patients for the cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and pulmonary/critical care teams in a teaching environment and provide direct patient care to these patients. The resident will become familiar with evidenced-based critical care therapeutic interventions, monitoring technologies and will participate in a comprehensive pharmaceutical care practice model. Daily responsibilities include attending interdisciplinary rounds, order verification and participating in codes when needed.

PSYCHIATRY

Residents have the opportunity to manage medications for patients during inpatient rounds and pharmacist-run mental health clinics. Under the guidance of 7 board-certified psychiatric pharmacists, residents will gain experience with facilitating patient interviews, designing treatment plans, and collaborating on a multidisciplinary team. Common conditions managed in this rotation include depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders. The PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency director facilitates weekly "Supervision" sessions, attended by PGY1 residents, PGY2 residents, and students on the psychiatry rotation. During these sessions, trainees can discuss patient cases, practice interviewing techniques, and present journal club articles.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

PGY1 residents will gain experience on the infectious diseases inpatient service managing various types of infections. Responsibilities and opportunities include following any patients in the hospital that are consulted to the infectious diseases service, participating in daily interdisciplinary rounds, attending microbiology rounds, and attending teaching sessions organized by the UCSD ID department, topic discussions by PGY2 ID residents, and HIV case presentations by rotating pharmacy students.

ADMINISTRATION

Residents on the admin rotation will become familiar with the medication use system and gain exposure to pharmacy operations within different sections of the department.

Rotation Experiences

Required Rotation

AMBULATORY CARE

When trainees rotate through the **PACT pharm clinics**, they will have many direct patient care opportunities and experiences with managing patients' chronic diseases including **but not limiting** to diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia. **(See page 9 for list of ambulatory care electives)**

In **diabetes clinic**, we serve as clinician in managing patients with diabetes, hypertension, lipid care as well as related DM disease states. I precept trainees to be able to assess patient data and formulate a plan for managing, present to the team, and work on effective verbal and written communication skills

In **lipids clinic**, the resident will have the opportunity to work as an independent practitioner providing patient care and treatment interventions based on ACC/AHA, NLA and VA hyperlipidemia treatment guidelines.

The **Tobacco Cessation Program** has several modalities of care. In general, there are 1:1 on counseling and group format for the treatment groups. One-on-one counseling consists of Pharmacist Managed Telephone Tobacco Cessation Clinic (PMTTCC), VA Video Connect and Weekly co-facilitation chronic care groups like addiction treatment groups

Elective Rotations (See page 9 for list of elective rotations)

ONCOLOGY

During the oncology rotation the PGY1 resident will gain experience in managing cancer patients across various practice settings (outpatient, inpatient, and infusion center). They will provide supportive care to patients receiving anticancer treatment as well as have many opportunities to interact with patients who are on both IV and oral anticancer therapies. The PGY1 resident attends daily inpatient rounds and is the pharmacy liaison between the inpatient oncology team and oncology pharmacy.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

This is an opportunity to learn in a fast-paced environment that provides both inpatient and outpatient experience. In addition, you can work closely with other healthcare providers as they are all here.

PAIN MANAGEMENT

The Pharmacy Pain Management Clinic is primarily a telephone clinic. As pain management pharmacists we implement, adjust, and monitor medications for pain under a scope of practice. By the end of the rotation, the resident will be able to implement pain medication management strategy and safe practices for patients with chronic pain.

Applicant Qualifications

- Register with the ASHP Resident Matching Program accessible at <http://www.natmatch.com/ashprmp/>
- Possess United States citizenship; Naturalized citizens must be able to provide proof of naturalization
- Possess a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited School or College of Pharmacy
- PGY1 applicants must be eligible for licensure to practice pharmacy from any state at the beginning of their residency program
- PGY2 applicants must be licensed to practice pharmacy from any state at the beginning of their residency program
- PGY2 applicants must complete or be in the process of completing an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency **OR** have equivalent experience

Application Process

- All application materials must be submitted through Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application (PhORCAS):
 - **PHASE I DEADLINE for ALL Programs** is January 1, 2021
 - **PHASE II DEADLINE for ALL Programs with available positions** is March 23, 2021
- Submitted Materials must include:
 - Basic Demographics
 - Verified Transcripts for Schools or Colleges of Pharmacy Only
 - Personal Statement / Letter of Intent
 - Curriculum Vitae
 - Three letters of recommendation using the standardized reference template in PhORCAS
 - Extracurricular Information
- Selected applicants will be invited to a personal on-site interview occurring in February. Candidates who are not invited for an on-site interview will be notified via e-mail

2020 Residency Showcase Information

CSHP Seminar

- Virtual
- Friday, October 23, 2020

ASHP Midyear

- Virtual
- Date / Time TBD

Open House

- VA San Diego Healthcare System
- Date / Time TBD
- For prospective 2021-2022 PGY1 Candidates Only
- Sign up to receive up to date recruitment information: [SIGN UP HERE](#)
- <https://tinyurl.com/VA-SD-PGY1-Residency-Info>

Frequently Asked Questions

How do residents choose their electives?

- Residents have two elective blocks throughout the year. You rank your top elective choices and meet with the RPD, who will arrange your schedule based on your top interests.
- In addition, you can pick 4 ambulatory care clinic electives that you can use to personalize your rotation experience to fit your professional interests.

Where are your former residents practicing now?

- All 8 former PGY-1 residents from the 2019-2020 residency class pursued a PGY-2 at a VA facility. 7 out of 8 early committed to a PGY-2 at VA San Diego.
- Previous 5 graduating classes have accepted positions at VA San Diego, other VA Healthcare Systems and non-VA healthcare organizations.

What does a typical year look like in terms of rotation schedules?

Managed care

6/24 – 7/12	7/17 – 8/16 4 ½ weeks	8/19 – 9/20 5 weeks	9/23 – 10/25 5 weeks	10/28 – 11/29 5 weeks	12/2 – 1/10 5 weeks	1/13 – 2/14 5 weeks	2/18 – 3/20 5 weeks	3/23 – 4/17 4 weeks	4/20 – 5/22 5 weeks	5/25 – 6/19 4 weeks
7/4		9/2	10/14	11/11, 11/28	12/25, 1/1	1/20	2/17			5/25
Orientation	Managed Care	Managed Care	Managed Care	Managed Care	Ambulatory Care	Managed Care	Medicine	Informatics	Managed Care	Managed Care

TRACK A

6/29 – 7/8	7/9 – 8/7 4.4 weeks	8/10 – 9/11 4.6 weeks	9/14 – 10/16 4.2 weeks	10/19 – 11/20 4.6 weeks	11/23 – 12/31 4+ weeks	1/11 – 2/12 4.8 weeks	2/16 – 3/19 4.8 weeks	3/22 – 4/16 4 weeks	4/19 – 5/21 4.2 weeks	5/24 – 6/25 4.8 weeks
7/3		9/7	10/12	11/11	11/26, 12/25	1/18	2/15			5/31
Orientation	Elective 1 Pain	Admin / Formulary Consults	Infectious Diseases	Elective 2 Oncology	Medicine	Medicine	Critical Care	Psychiatry	Ambulatory Care	Ambulatory Care

What teaching opportunities do residents participate in?

- Residents receive a teaching certificate through the San Diego Pharmacy Residency Leaders Program (SDPRL). They are expected to attend workshops with other residents in the San Diego region. Residents will facilitate Tuesday Conferences and will serve as a preceptor for 2 student presentations and develop 1 case discussions.
- Other teaching opportunities include mentoring pharmacy students on clinical rotations and providing in-service education.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the pharmacy staff have a good relationship with the other health care professionals?

- Yes, this is a teaching hospital, so it is a very encouraging environment to foster clinical growth. The VA adopts progressive practices that allow pharmacists to provide direct patient care and the other members of the health care team see us as a valuable provider

What makes your program unique?

- We have dedicated and experienced preceptors who are passionate about teaching. Many of them also have a scope-of-practice that allows them to practice autonomously
- Large residency classes; 6-7 PGY-1s, 11-12 PGY-2s
- We have 10 onsite electives you get to choose from in addition to various off-site electives (subject to change)
- We offer 8 PGY-2 programs; many with early commit options
- Our staffing model is specific to the rotation you are in (see below)

What are the staffing requirements for pharmacy residents?

- There are dedicated blocks for staffing (ambulatory care, medicine) where residents will gain experience in order verification, outpatient pharmacy operations, IV preparations, and sterile technique
- No weekend staffing unless required by a specific rotation
- If available, we offer moonlighting/fee basis appointments where you can staff in the inpatient or outpatient pharmacy after rotation hours/weekends for additional pay

How are research project ideas determined?

- Residents are responsible for formulating their own research question and will gain skills in creating a study design and methodology, data collection and analysis, and presenting research findings.

Which Electronic Medical Record do you use?

- VASD utilizes a Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) and Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA).

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

VA San Diego
Healthcare System

Pharmacy Service (119)

3350 La Jolla Village Drive

San Diego, CA 92161

VOICE: (858) 642-3026 or (858) 642-3497

FAX: (858) 642-1608