



Meet Our Preceptors



Robert (Bob) Lana, PharmD received his Bachelors of Science in Chemistry/Biology from PACE University in White Plains, NY in 1981 and Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1986. He then received his PharmD degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Science in Little Rock, AK in 2000. Dr. Lana is certified in Immunization and Medication Therapy Management and has served as an Adjunct Faculty member at Albany College of Pharmacy and St. John's University. He has a teaching certificate from the University of Connecticut. He is an active member of ACCP, ASHP, and the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. Dr. Lana has been the Chief of Pharmacy at the VA HVHCS since 1999 and is responsible for overseeing all clinical, inpatient, and outpatient pharmacy operations at the Castle Point and Montrose campuses as well as VA HVHCS' seven (community based outpatient clinics) CBOCs. Prior to this, he has held several clinical and supervisory pharmacy roles throughout his career.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Administration

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): Clinical Pharmacy Management/Administration



Karen Park, PharmD, CGP, BCACP received her PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, NY in 2003 and completed a Primary Care specialty residency at the VA Maryland Health Care System in Baltimore, MD in 2004. Dr. Smith is an active member of ASHP, ACCP, and ASCP and has completed the Geriatrics Scholars Program offered by the VA Geriatric Research, Education & Clinical Center (GRECC). She currently holds a Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy and is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. In addition, she holds certifications in Anticoagulation Therapy Management and Immunization. Dr. Park has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS for since 2005 and currently manages the anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinics at the Goshen, Port Jervis, and Monticello CBOCs. She also serves as the PGY1 Pharmacy and PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program Director, Anticoagulation Coordinator, and precepts pharmacy students from affiliated colleges of pharmacy.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Orientation, Pharmacy Education, Residency Project

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Orientation, Ambulatory Care/CBOC PACT, Anticoagulation, Project, Teaching & Health Education, Residency Project

Fun Fact: Karen has travelled to every state except Alaska, which is next on her bucket list.



Rita Bodine, PharmD received her PharmD degree from St. John's University in Queens, NY and completed a Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Program at Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States in Rockville, MD. Dr. Bodine joined the VA HVHCS pharmacy team in 2006, initially serving both staff pharmacist and clinical pharmacist roles. She has extensive experience in managing anticoagulation, diabetes, clozapine, and performing clinical practice management duties. Since 2010, she has served as the Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Operations.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Clinical Practice Management, Pharmacy Administration, Residency Project

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Clinical Pharmacy Management/Administration, Residency Project

Fun Fact: Rita is a Washington Redskins fan.



Svitlana (Lana) Stanton, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1990 and PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) in Boston, MA in 2010. Dr. Stanton is certified in Anticoagulation Therapy Management, Immunization, and Medication Therapy Management and is an active member of the Rho Chi Society and ASHP. She has worked at the VA HVHCS since 2008 in both staff pharmacist and clinical pharmacy specialist roles. She's held her current position as the Pharmacy Supervisor at the Castle Point campus since 2015 and is responsible for overseeing all inpatient and outpatient pharmacy operations. Dr. Stanton has also had extensive experience as a pharmacist in the private institution as well as community retail pharmacy settings.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Staffing (CP)



Leonard (Lenny) Manzella, PharmD received his Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy in Kingston, RI in 1994 and his PharmD degree from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2014. Lenny has worked at the VA HVHCS since 2004. He's held his current position as the Pharmacy Supervisor at the Montrose campus since 2010 and is responsible for overseeing all inpatient and outpatient pharmacy operations.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Staffing (MO)



Kimberly Allison, PharmD, BCACP received her Bachelors of Science in Animal Science from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and her PharmD degree from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York in Buffalo, NY. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at the VA HVHCS in 2010. Dr. Allison is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2010. Her primary responsibilities include managing anticoagulation and diabetes within the PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point and Montrose campuses.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation (longitudinal), Clozaril Clinic*, Mental Health (elective)* *Co-preceptor with Miranda Cole

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation I, Primary Care/PACT I&II

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Tobacco Cessation* (elective) *Co-preceptor with Miranda Cole

Fun Fact: Kimberly volunteers at the Stony Kill environmental education center as a barn guide. She is also learning to sail and hopes to earn her boating license.



Rosa Bates, PharmD, BCACP, received her PharmD degree from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 2006 and completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at the VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo, NY. Dr. Bates is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and is an active member of ASHP. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2007 and currently manages the anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus as well as the Pine Plains and Poughkeepsie CBOCs.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation I&II, Primary Care/PACT I&II

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Ambulatory Care/CBOC PACT

Fun Fact: Rosa loves to travel, bake, and spend time with her family and friends.



(Maria) Angela Bottalico, PharmD received her PharmD from the Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy, Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY in 2001. She has been a pharmacist at the VA since 2006. She currently manages the anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinic at the Montrose campus. Prior to working at the VA Dr. Bottalico worked in retail pharmacy.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation I

Fun Fact: Angela was born in Spain. She is also the mother of 4 boys.



Manthan (Manny) Chokshi, PharmD received his PharmD degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in Philadelphia, PA in 2011 and completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at the VA HVHCS immediately following. Dr. Chokshi rejoined the VA HVHCS pharmacy team in 2013, where he initially served as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist managing the anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care at the Montrose campus and New City and Goshen CBOCs. Since 2015, Manny has fulfilled the role of Automated Data Processing Application Coordinator (ADPAC), which matches his passion for pharmacy data applications and information technology.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Informatics (elective)

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): Clinical Pharmacy Management/Administration

Fun Fact: Manny has a twin brother who he describes as his "polar opposite".



Eunsuk (Amanda) Chung, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT in 1990 and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency Program at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York, NY immediately following. She later received her PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston, MA in 2010. She has worked at the VA HVHCS since 2006, but has been a pharmacist within the VHA for over 20 years (Coatesville VAMC in Coatesville, PA and Northampton VAMC in Northampton, MA). Dr. Chung is certified in Anticoagulation Therapy Management and Lipid Clinic Preceptorship and is an active member of the Rho Chi Society. She manages anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus and continues to staff in the pharmacy on the weekends.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation I, Primary Care/PACT I

Fun Fact: The biggest part of Amanda's life is raising her daughter, who will be finishing undergrad this year and preparing for grad school. She speaks fluent Korean and is active in the Korean American church.



Miranda Cole, Pharm D, BCPP received her PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, NY in 2008. She completed her PGY-1 residency with an emphasis in psychiatry and PGY-2 residency specializing in psychiatry at Buffalo Psychiatric Center in Buffalo, NY in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Dr. Cole has been a Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist since 2011. She is the most recent addition to the VA Hudson Valley family, joining the staff in March of this year. Prior to the VA, Dr. Cole served as the Clinical Coordinator at the two state psychiatric hospitals in Maine. She primarily serves as the clinical pharmacy specialist for the inpatient psychiatry units at the Montrose campus, while also co-facilitating the Clozapine and Tobacco Cessation Clinics, and participating in many Mental Health Performance Improvement/Quality Assurance projects.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Clozaril Clinic*, Mental Health* (elective)

*Co-preceptor with Kimberly Allison

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Tobacco Cessation* (elective)

*Co-preceptor with Kimberly Allison

Fun Fact: She has more hobbies and interests than she can count, but some of her favorite things to do are travel, hike, study Isshin-ryu Karate and BJJ, quilt, and eat good food. People are usually most surprised at the fact that she has been to Alaska, has gone sky-diving, drives a Camaro and has her motorcycle license.

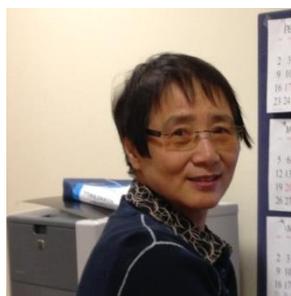


Philip (Phil) Forlenza, PharmD, BCACP received his Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1986 and his PharmD degree from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2014. Phil is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and Immunization and serves as an active member of the United States Air Force and the Society of Air Force Pharmacists. He has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2010 and holds a variety of responsibilities including the management of non-formulary consults, adverse drug reaction reporting, and anticoagulation management. In 2012, Phil implemented the Pharmacy-managed Pain Management Clinic and works collaboratively with the pain management team. Phil has also had extensive experience as a pharmacist in the private institutional as well as community retail pharmacy settings.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Pain Management (elective)

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Pain Management (elective)

Fun Fact: Phil has set foot on all 7 continents.



Young Lee, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Wyoming in 1990 and PharmD degree from the University of Kansas in 2005. Dr. Lee also has a background and degree in nursing. She has worked for the VHA for over 20 years and is currently a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist who specializes in the Home Based Primary Care program at the VA HVHCS.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): HBPC (elective)

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): HBPC (elective)



Elaine Kang-Yum, PharmD, BCACP received both her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy followed by her PharmD degree from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1983 and 2010, respectively. Dr. Kang-Yum is a Certified Poison Information Specialist, Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, has a teaching certificate from the University of Connecticut, and a Certificate in Medication Therapy Management (MTM). She is the Founder and Director of the Herbwatch Program at Long Island Regional Poison Center and Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Herbs and Dietary Supplement Group through the American Association of Clinical Toxicology (AACT). Dr. Kang-Yum also serves as an active member on the Community Health Research Committee of the Chinese American Medical Society and has been a grant recipient in the past. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2007 and has worked in the anticoagulation, diabetes, and smoking cessation clinics at the Montrose campus and New City CBOC, but currently specializes in the Home Based Primary Care program at the VA HVHCS.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): HBPC (elective)

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): HBPC (elective)

Fun Fact: Elaine is fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin. She makes cards as a hobby.



Diane Leung-DiLiberto, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in 1994 and her PharmD degree at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2016. Diane has been a Clinical Pharmacist at the VA HVHCS since 2010 and currently works at the Castle Point campus where she is responsible for inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care pharmacy services and patient care. Prior to joining the pharmacy team at the VA HVHCS, Diane served as a pharmacist in the institutional, long-term care, and managed care settings. She has worked extensively in hospital pharmacy, oncology and long-term care pharmacy providing care for patients.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Geriatrics/Community Living Center
Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Staffing (CP)



Yvonne Ma, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from Long Island University Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Brooklyn, NY in 1977 and later received her PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, NY in 2004. Dr. Ma has been an Infectious Disease Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2004. In addition to managing the pharmacy infectious disease clinic, Dr. Ma also works in the diabetes and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus. Yvonne also has extensive experience as a pharmacist in the private institutional as well as community retail pharmacy settings.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Infectious Disease
Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Primary Care/PACT I
Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Infectious Disease (elective)



Maria (Ann) O'Connor, PharmD received her Doctor of PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2009 and has been a practicing pharmacist for over 7 years. Maria joined the pharmacy staff at the VA HVHCS Montrose campus in 2011 and is currently responsible for inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care pharmacy services.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Staffing (MO)



Patricia (Trish) Wheeler, BS received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1991. She has worked extensively in long-term care pharmacy providing care for patients in nursing homes and homes for the disabled. Prior to joining the pharmacy team at the VA HVHCS in 2010, Trish also worked in compounding, independent, and chain retail pharmacies. She currently works at the Castle Point campus and is responsible for inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care pharmacy services and patient care.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Geriatrics/Community Living Center
Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Staffing (CP)



Kara Yurkovic, PharmD, CDE received her PharmD degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in 2008 and completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency program at the W.G. Bill Hefner VA in Salisbury, NC in 2009. Dr. Yurkovic is a Certified Diabetes Educator and active member of AADE and APhA. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2010 and currently manages the anticoagulation and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus. Dr. Yurkovic also runs a CDE clinic, serves as chairperson for Clinical Pertinence Reviews/Adjudication Committee, and presents an annual Diabetes presentation to the VA HVHCS staff along with a RD and RN. Prior to joining the pharmacy team at the VA HVHCS, she was a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the West Haven VA in West Haven, CT.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Primary Care/PACT I&II

Fun Fact: Kara works only part-time and is a mother of two young children, Rhys and Veya.