



# VA HVHCS Past PGY1 Pharmacy Residents Where Are They Now?



## 2008-2009: Dr. Elma Omeragic, PharmD, BCPS



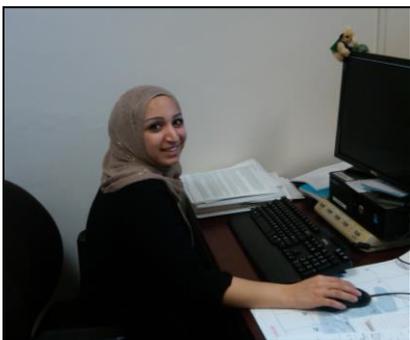
Dr. Omeragic obtained her PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. After completing her PGY1 residency in 2009, she accepted a pharmacist position at Albany Memorial Hospital in her hometown of Albany, NY. This position included both staffing and clinical responsibilities. Of note, Elma passed her board certification examination in pharmacotherapy in 2012 and is now a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist (BCPS). She continues to work at Albany Memorial Hospital per diem, but took a position in anticoagulation management with St. Peter's Health Partners in 2013.

## 2009-2010: Dr. Kimberly Allison, PharmD, BCACP

Dr. Allison earned her PharmD degree from the University at Buffalo. She joined our VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (VA HVHCS) staff in 2010 and now serves as a clinical pharmacy specialist in our PACT clinics focusing on diabetes, anticoagulation, tobacco cessation, and clozapine management. Dr. Allison also serves as a primary & secondary preceptor to our PGY1 pharmacy residents, as well as APPE pharmacy students. In addition, Kimberly became board certified in ambulatory care pharmacy in 2011.



## 2010-2011: Dr. Samrah Naseem, PharmD



Dr. Naseem received her PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. After completing her PGY1 residency with us in 2011, Sam pursued a PGY2 specialty residency in geriatrics at the Boston VAMC. Currently, she works at Atrius Health as a primary care, geriatric, and psychiatric clinical pharmacist. Her role includes **cCollaborative drug** therapy management, drug information consults, formulary management, and academic detailing. As an active member of



the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, she completes drug monographs, creates therapeutic policies and guidelines, and develops organizational cost-savings prescribing initiatives. She also serves as a primary preceptor for the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) PGY1 residency program and as an instructor for an advanced Neurology/Psychiatry Pharmacotherapy elective course at MCPHS.

## 2011-2012: Drs. Gerard Gawrys, PharmD, BCPS and Manthan Chokshi, PharmD



Dr. Gawrys obtained his PharmD degree from St. Louis College of Pharmacy and travelled to New York State for PGY1 residency training. After successful completion of his PGY1 residency program at VA HVHCS in 2012, Gerard furthered his training by traveling west to the Milwaukee VAMC and completed a PGY2 specialty residency in infectious disease. Dr. Gawrys then decided to settle south in San Antonio, Texas, where he accepted an antimicrobial surveillance clinical pharmacist position at Methodist Healthcare System. Of note, Dr. Gawrys

became a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist (BCPS) in 2012 and was the recipient on the 2016 Gita Wasan Patel Pharmacy Excellence Award. Gerard also serves as a PGY1 pharmacy residency program director at Methodist Healthcare System.



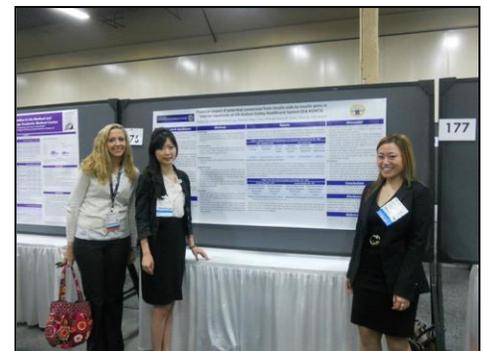
Dr. Chokshi received his PharmD degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Manny actually joined our VA HVHCS clinical pharmacy specialist staff in 2013, where he initially specialized in diabetes and anticoagulation management. He is truly passionate about pharmacy informatics and now serves as our pharmacy Automated Data Processing Application Coordinator (ADPAC). Dr. Chokshi also serves as a primary preceptor to our PGY1 pharmacy residents completing an elective in Pharmacy Informatics.

## 2012-2013: Drs. Cindy Lau, PharmD and Debbie Hsu, PharmD

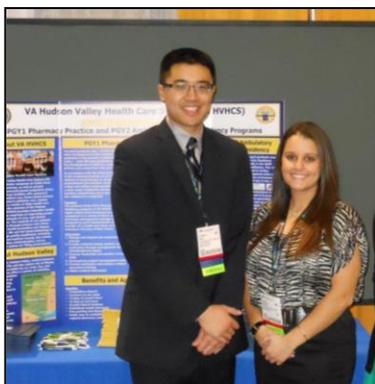


Dr. Lau graduated from St. John's University in 2012, receiving her PharmD degree. After completing her PGY1 residency training in 2013, Cindy initially accepted a position at the East Orange VAMC in New Jersey, where served as a clinical pharmacist at the Center for Health and Wellness. In 2015, Cindy accepted a global drug safety specialist position with Leo Pharma in Parsippany, NJ. She may soon be transferring to their headquarters in Denmark.

Dr. Hsu received her PharmD degree from Northeastern University. She successfully completed her PGY1 residency training in 2013, as well as a PGY2 ambulatory care pharmacy residency program at VA HVHCS in 2014. She is now employed as a clinical pharmacy specialist within the VA Central Western Massachusetts Health Care System in Leeds, Massachusetts where her clinical responsibilities include formulary management, anticoagulation monitoring, diabetes and anemia management.



## 2013-2014: Drs. Cristina Fantino, PharmD and Clement Chen, PharmD



Dr. Fantino graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2013, receiving her PharmD degree. After completing her PGY1 residency training program in 2014, Cristina then completed a PGY2 psychiatry pharmacy residency at the VA Connecticut Health Care System. She is now working as a psychiatric clinical pharmacist specialist at the VA Connecticut Health Care System. Her interests include psychiatry and geriatrics and she aims to become board certified in psychiatric pharmacy (BCPP) in 2016.

Dr. Chen graduated from Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University in 2013, receiving his PharmD degree. He is currently serves as a clinical pharmacist at Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, NJ. In addition, he works as per diem pharmacist at Newton Medical Center in Newton, NJ as works as a part-time transitions of care pharmacists at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, NJ.

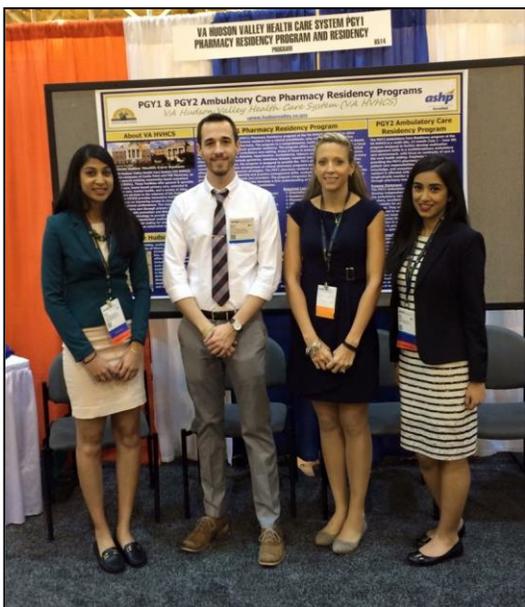
## 2014-2015: Drs. Ashley Farr, PharmD and Brian Smith, PharmD

Dr. Farr graduated from Saint John Fisher College Wegmans School of Pharmacy, in Rochester, NY in 2014, receiving her PharmD degree. After completing her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2015, Ashley then completed a PGY2 ambulatory care pharmacy residency at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Florida. She is currently employed as clinical pharmacist at the same facility and serves as the Pain Program Manager.

Dr. Smith also received his PharmD degree from Saint John Fisher College Wegmans School of Pharmacy, in Rochester, NY. Shortly thereafter, he became a licensed pharmacist in North Carolina. He successfully completed his PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2015, as well as his PGY2 ambulatory care pharmacy residency program at VA HVHCS in 2016. He recently became a licensed pharmacist in New York and started working at MidHudson Regional Hospital, in Poughkeepsie, NY.



## 2015-2016: Drs. Uswa Ahmad, PharmD and Gina Shah, PharmD



Dr. Ahmad graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, MA in 2015, receiving her PharmD degree. She completed her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2015 and is currently seeking employment.

Dr. Shah received her PharmD degree from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT. She successfully completed her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2015. Throughout her residency year, Gina moonlighted as a staff pharmacist with Rite Aid Pharmacy, a position that she has still maintains. Employment as a clinical pharmacist at the VA San Diego Healthcare System in San Diego, CA is currently pending, as is her move to the West coast.



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