

PGY1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Healthcare System

The Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS) is an integrated Veteran's Affairs healthcare system consisting of 200 acute care beds, 100 geriatrics beds, four primary care teams and associated specialty clinics, two urban community outpatient clinics, and five community outpatient clinics in Tucson's outlying areas serving 50,000 veterans annually. A wide range of inpatient and ambulatory care services are provided in the medical center including internal medicine, primary care, surgery, neurology, infectious diseases, nephrology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, pulmonary, cardiology, oncology and mental health. The pharmacy service is involved in many areas mentioned above, and continues to experience significant growth in the emergency department, anticoagulation, medication reconciliation, and nutrition support. SAVAHCS is the neurosurgery and cardiac referral center for the Southwest Region (VISN 18). SAVAHCS is also a technology and patient safety leader assisted by the extensive use of robotics and automation. The pharmacy provides progressive clinical services with 100 pharmacy staff members, including 40 clinical pharmacists in a variety of practice settings. The medical center has a strong affiliation to the University of Arizona allied healthcare professions. Students and residents from many disciplines are trained at SAVAHCS each year, including eight PGY1 pharmacy residents, one PGY2 oncology pharmacy resident, and many students from several colleges of pharmacy.



Residency Goals and Objectives

The goals of the residency program are to train pharmacists to develop the skills necessary to ensure optimal delivery of drug therapy to all patients, analyze and disseminate drug information to health care professionals and patients, investigate therapeutic problems in a scientific manner, and enhance the verbal and written communication skills of the resident. The residents will be expected to provide care to a wide range of patients, become leaders in the medication use process, manage practice, function competently and in partnership with other providers, and teach at an appropriate level when the residency is completed.

Program Description

The residency program is a 12 month period of education and experience designed to provide ongoing clinical pharmacy activities while promoting the resident's needs. The resident's experiences throughout the year will include internal medicine, critical care, parenteral nutrition, primary care, therapeutic drug monitoring, drug information, drug policy development, and other specialties. The program provides clinical experience with a broad range of patients and disease states. Residents will work collegially with physicians and nurse practitioners along with having their own continuity clinic. During the year, each resident will give presentations such as patient management conferences, in-services to nurses and physicians, journal club, and an ACPE accredited one hour continuing education presentation. A research project is required and each resident will present the results at the Western States Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors in Pacific Grove, California.

Residency Preceptors

All pharmacists on staff provide direct patient care and assist in the education of the pharmacy residents. Clinical pharmacy specialists practice in the following areas: primary care, internal medicine, surgery, rehabilitation, interim care, geriatrics, cardiology, critical care, oncology, mental health, pain, gastroenterology, endocrinology, infectious diseases, nephrology, and hospice. Preceptors place a high value on the residents and are always accessible.

Drug Information & Drug Policy Development

Drug information and drug policy development activities occur throughout the residency year. All of these experiences are longitudinal experiences that provide residents experience in managing a practice. Each resident will prepare drug monograph criteria for use and medication use evaluation for the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. Residents participate in adverse drug reaction reporting, and pharmacy quality improvement programs. Each resident will gain experience in writing, editing, and publishing a drug therapy and a patient pharmacy newsletter.

Website:

www.tucson.va.gov/careers/pharmacy_residency_program.asp

Typical Resident Schedule

July-November	Internal medicine Ambulatory care Surgery Elective
December	CE/Research ASHP Midyear Conference
January-June	Internal medicine Ambulatory care Surgery Geriatrics Elective
Longitudinal Experience	Ambulatory care Anticoagulation Administration activities

Residents also provide weekend inpatient pharmacist coverage. Generally, this is one weekend each month. The clinical and distributive functions of a pharmacist will be performed during this time.

Elective Opportunities

Residents may choose two electives during the year. The elective time is used to tailor specific interests of the resident within the training program. Common electives are oncology, pain, specialty, ambulatory care, cardiology, critical care, mental health, infectious disease and administration.

Benefits

The residency program provides a competitive stipend. Residents can accumulate 13 days of paid vacation time and have 10 Federal holidays per year. Sick leave is accrued at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks. Educational leave is provided to attend the Arizona Pharmacy Alliance Annual Meeting, the Midyear Clinical Meeting, and the Western States Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors. Travel funds are available to offset some of the expenses for these educational meetings.

Qualifications

All residents must be United States citizens and have graduated with a doctor of pharmacy degree from an American Council on Pharmaceutical Education accredited college or school of pharmacy. All pharmacy residents are required to become licensed anywhere in the United States. National Matching Service registration is required.

How to Apply

Interested candidates may apply by sending to the Residency Program Director:

- Cover letter
- Applicant's curriculum vitae
- College of pharmacy transcripts
(Unofficial transcripts must accompany the application packet, with official transcripts to follow. Official transcripts must be received before a candidate is granted an interview.)
- One example of technical writing such as a drug information or monograph that has been submitted for college credit
- Three letters of recommendation sent directly*, or attached with the application in recommender signed-and-sealed envelope

*All application materials must be postmarked by December 31st. Candidates who are not invited to interview will be notified via letter postmarked no later than January 15th.

Information or questions?

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