

PGY2 PHARMACY ONCOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS) is an integrated Veteran's Affairs Medical Center consisting of approximately 200 acute care beds, 100 geriatric and rehabilitation beds, five primary care teams, seven community outpatient based clinics (CBOC's) serving Tucson's outlying areas, and a variety of specialty clinics and services. SAVAHCS serves approximately 50,000 veterans; with specialty services available at SAVAHCS including all surgical specialties, neurology, infectious diseases, nephrology, cardiology, gastroenterology, pulmonary, mental health, critical care, pain clinic, and oncology. SAVAHCS is the neurosurgical and cardiac referral center for the Southwest region (VISN 18), and is also the site of the Southwest Blind Rehabilitation Center. The pharmacy service provides progressive medical services to the medical center with over 100 pharmacy staff members, including over 40 clinical pharmacists in a variety of practice settings. The medical center has a strong affiliation with the University of Arizona allied healthcare professions; and offers rotational experiences to students from the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. Pharmacy rotational experiences and affiliations are also established for Creighton University, Midwestern University, and Western University Schools of Pharmacy. Students and residents from many disciplines receive training at SAVAHCS each year, including eight PGY1 Pharmacy Residents. A medical oncology fellowship also exists, with 8 full-time oncology fellows receiving their

specialized training in oncology and spending rotational experiences at both SAVAHCS and the University of Arizona Cancer Center. SAVAHCS also has an eighteen bed hospice and palliative care unit on site that provides additional oncology services to Veteran patients.

Residency Goals and Objectives

The goals of the oncology pharmacy residency program are to provide specialty training for pharmacists to develop the skills necessary to ensure optimal drug therapy to cancer patients, to analyze and disseminate drug information to other health care professionals and patients, to investigate and solve complex therapeutic problems in a scientific manner, and to further enhance the verbal and written communication skills of the resident. The resident will be expected to provide care to cancer patients in a wide variety of clinical environments; including outpatient care, surgical oncology, acute care, and in the hospice setting.

Program Description

The oncology pharmacy residency program is a 12 month period of education and experiences that focuses on oncology pharmacy practice and is designed to provide ongoing pharmacy clinical activities while promoting the residents needs. The residents' experiences throughout the year will include outpatient oncology, surgical oncology, inpatient oncology, administrative oncology, hospice/palliative care, therapeutic drug monitoring, drug information, drug policy development, and will also provide additional electives that are specific to the practice of oncology pharmacy. The program will provide the resident with clinical experiences in a variety of patients and oncology diagnosis. The resident will work together with physicians, nurse practitioners and nursing in providing quality pharmaceutical services to patients and their families. During the year the resident will be expected to give presentations; such

as patient management conferences, in-services to nursing and/or providers, journal club, and a formal staff development seminar. The resident is also expected to assist in the teaching/precepting of pharmacy students and PGY1 residents who are taking an elective in oncology pharmacy at SAVAHCS. A research project is required, and the resident will present the results at the Western States Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors. This Conference is held in May of the residency year, in Pacific Grove, California.

Residency Preceptors

All pharmacists employed at SAVAHCS provide direct patient care, and assist in the training and education of all the pharmacy residents, both those in PGY1 and PGY2 programs. The preceptors place a high value on the residents and understand the importance of residency training and their roles in the residents' education. Clinical pharmacy specialists practice in the following areas: primary care, internal medicine, critical care, surgery, rehabilitation medicine, geriatrics, cardiology, mental health, pain, gastroenterology, endocrinology, infectious disease/HIV, nephrology and oncology/hospice/palliative care. The PGY2 residency program manager serves as the primary preceptor for this second year specialty residency, but the resident will still spend time in some other areas with other preceptors, primarily during elective rotations and teaching situations.



Website:

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

Typical Resident Schedule

July:	Orientation
July/August:	Hospice/Palliative Care
September:	Outpatient Oncology
October:	Surgical Oncology (urology, neurosurgery, general surgery, CT surgery)
November:	Inpatient Oncology
December:	Research/Administrative
January:	Consult Service
February:	Surgical Oncology: Elective
March:	Outpatient Oncology
April:	Elective
May:	Hospice/Palliative Care
June:	Inpatient Oncology

As part of a PGY2 residency program, there is not a staffing component to the residency. The resident is expected however; to provide assistance in staffing issues when the primary preceptor is unavailable, serve as a mentor and additional preceptor for PGY1 Pharmacy Residents who may be doing an elective in oncology, and pharmacy students on their clinical clerkships.

Elective Opportunities

The resident may choose two electives during the residency year. This elective time is used to either tailor additional specific interests of the resident, or to further improve upon an already completed rotation. Electives available in the specialty area of oncology may include the pain clinic. Off site elective rotations in bone marrow transplantation and radiation oncology may also be available through the University of Arizona Medical Center and Cancer Center.

Benefits

The PGY2 residency program offers a competitive stipend. All residents will accumulate 13 days of paid vacation time and have an additional 10 paid Federal holidays per year. Sick leave is accrued at the rate of 4 hours every 2 week pay period. Educational

paid leave will be provided to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, the Western States Residency Conference, and an additional meeting that is specific to the practice of oncology pharmacy. Partial funding will be provided for the Western States and Oncology conferences.

Qualifications

All resident applicants must be a citizen of the United States, have graduated from an ACPE accredited college of pharmacy with a doctor of pharmacy degree, and have completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency. Active pharmacy licensure in Arizona is required in able to complete a required off site BMT rotation.

How to Apply

Interested candidates may apply by sending a cover letter of interest, a copy of the applicants curriculum vitae, all college transcripts, one example of technical writing such as a drug monograph or drug information question that was either submitted for college credit or during a PGY1 Residency. A formal presentation given to the pharmacy staff during the on site interview is also required. This presentation may be from their PGY1 residency program, or be a new topic for presentation. All applicants are required to also submit three letters of recommendation with their application to the PGY2 Program Director before January 5th.

For further information or questions please feel free to contact the PGY2 Residency Program Manager as outlined below:

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