



Atlanta

VA Medical Center

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

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Primary Care Pharmacy Practice Residency (PGY1)

Setting

The Atlanta VAMC is a tertiary care center that is dedicated to providing both primary and specialized outpatient health care, extended care, acute medical, surgical, intermediate and psychiatric care services with almost all major specialties and subspecialties represented.

Mission statement

To develop an integrated healthcare delivery system that improves the quality of health care for the veteran population by providing primary care, specialty care, extended care and related social support services.

Residency program purpose statement

Pharmacists completing this residency will be competent, compassionate, and independent practitioners providing direct patient care in diverse health care environments. They will be skilled in educating health care professionals, patients, and others regarding medication-related issues. They will practice professionally and with high personal standards in order to be an effective member of the health care team and be innovative in providing primary care practices.

Educational Affiliation

As a teaching and research institution, affiliation with other educational organizations is an integral part of our practice.

Primary Care Pharmacy Residency (PGY1)

The residency is a one-year postgraduate program that provides training in different areas of Pharmacy Practice. The program is accredited by ASHP and offers three resident positions specializing in primary care with a geriatric orientation. Pharmaceutical care opportunities are afforded in the following areas:

- General Primary Care Teams and Community Based Outpatient Clinics
- Specialty Teams
 - Hypertension
 - Lipids
 - Cardiology
 - Hematology/Oncology
 - Infectious Disease (HIV)

- Pulmonary
- Hepatitis
- Mental Health
- Rheumatology
- Geriatrics/Nursing home
- Internal Medicine/Critical Care
- Pharmacy Administration
- Anticoagulation Clinic
- Home Based Primary Care
- Clinical Research/investigational Drugs
- Veteran Learning Center

Other resident activities include (not limited to) the following:

- Outpatient pharmacy staffing; monthly
- Journal club presentations; monthly
- Inservices to the medical/pharmacy staff, per preceptors' instructions
- Research project
- Southeastern Residency Conference (SERC) attendance and presentation
- Grand-rounds presentation; annually
- Topic discussions; biweekly
- ASHP mid-year meeting encouraged. Residents attending must present an abstract of their research project (poster presentation)
- GSHP mid-year meeting poster presentation
- Teaching responsibilities; 4th year pharmacy students

Residency Pay and Benefits:

Appointment Period: July 1- June 30 (52 weeks)

Salary: \$39,134.00

Benefits: 13 days of paid annual leave and sick leave, authorized leave for professional meetings, comprehensive health insurance coverage.

Current Residency Class 2007-2008

Katheryn McCarty, Pharm.D. , University of Georgia-Athens

Anh Le, Pharm.D. , University of Georgia-Athens

Exa Willis, Pharm.D. , Auburn University, Alabama

Application Requirements and Process:

All applicants

- Must have U.S. Citizenship. Naturalized citizens must provide proof of naturalization
- Must have a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited School of Pharmacy

- Must have transcripts from all schools of pharmacy attended sent directly from the school
- Must include a letter of intent
- Must have 3 letters of recommendation sent directly to the institution. Letters may be in free text format or the ASHP Resident Applicant Recommendation Form :
<http://www.careerpharm.com/seeker/resources/Res-recommendation-form.doc>
- Must have taken the pharmacy board exam prior to starting (though may be awaiting results)
- Must send a copy of Curriculum Vitae
- Must complete a VA Job Application (form 10-2850c)
http://www.vacareers.va.gov/l2_Jobs_Forms.cfm

An onsite interview with a 10-15 minute presentation will be required. The Residency Director will contact selected candidates in January or February to schedule interviews. Once all interviews are completed, we will submit our rank order list of candidates to the National Matching Service.

Deadline: January 15

- Letter of Interest
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of Transcripts
- Letters of Reference (three are needed; see attached form)
- VA Job Application, form 10-2850c

Clinical Pharmacy Preceptors

Sumita Biswas, Pharm.D. Dr. Biswas received a B.S. in Biology from Emory University in 1993 and went on to receive her Pharm.D. from Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy in 1997. After graduation, she completed two ASHP-accredited residencies from Grady Health System in Atlanta- Pharmacy Practice ('97-'98) and Primary Care ('98-'99). Upon completion of the residencies, Dr. Biswas joined the Atlanta VAMC as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Primary Care. She serves as a preceptor to the Primary Care residents in addition to Mercer and UGA pharmacy students. She has given many presentations and inservices in topics related to primary care. Her areas of interest include diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hyperlipidemia, and asthma. Dr. Biswas worked as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with the Red Team for approximately 2 years and transferred to Purple Team in 2001 until February 2007. Currently she is the Clinical Supervisor Trainee. Dr. Biswas serves as the student liaison for pharmacy students and helps coordinate the journal club schedule for the pharmacy residents. She has served as President of the Atlanta Academy of Institutional Pharmacists and Chairman of the Board. She actively attends AAIP and GSHP meetings.

Jacinda Bryd-Smith, Pharm.D. Dr. Byrd-Smith Pharm.D. from Xavier University of Louisiana in 1997. After graduation, she worked at CVS pharmacy for 3 years (1997-2000). She then went on to work at Kaiser Permanente where she worked in their clinical department. As a clinical pharmacist, she assisted new members as they transitioned into Kaiser Permanente and reviewed physician requests for non-formulary and Criteria Restricted Medications for prescription drug benefit coverage. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Georgia Perimeter College lecturing on various topics in the Pharmacy Technician Certification program from 2004-2005. Dr. Byrd-Smith has completed certificate programs in dyslipidemia, asthma and anticoagulation. She then went on to join the Atlanta VA Medical Center in 2006 as a clinical pharmacist. Her current area of practice is the management of anticoagulation therapy.

Sybelle Blakey Scott, Pharm.D., BCPS Dr. Blakey has a B.S. in Zoology (1991) and a Pharm.D. (1995) from the University of Florida. She completed an ASHP-accredited pharmacy practice residency at Mercer University/Piedmont Hospital and became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist in 1997. From 1996 – 1997 she served as a Patient Care Pharmacist and Critical Care Pharmacist at Southern Regional Health System where she established clinical pharmacy services in the medical intensive care unit. Dr. Blakey served as a Clinical Assistant Professor specializing in adult internal medicine at Mercer University from 1996–2000. She joined the VA Medical Center in 2000 where she serves as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Hematology/Oncology, Gastroenterology, and Hepatology outpatient clinics.

Heidi Cantrell, Pharm.D., BCPS Dr. Cantrell received a BS in Biology from North Georgia College in 1996 and a Pharm.D. from Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy in 2002. She completed an ASHP-accredited primary care pharmacy practice residency at the Atlanta VAMC (2003). After completion of her residency, Dr. Cantrell joined the Atlanta VAMC as a clinical pharmacy specialist. Her current areas of practice include pulmonary medicine, rheumatology, and physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R). She completed BCPS certification in 2004.

Gara Coffey, Pharm.D. Dr. Coffey received her Pharm.D. from the University of Kentucky in 2001. She completed an ASHP-accredited pharmacy practice residency at Emory University Hospital in 2002. She then went on to complete a psychiatric pharmacy residency at the University of Kentucky in 2003. Upon completion of this, she worked at Grady Health System in Atlanta, GA as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry. She joined the VA medical center in 2004. She has held previous appointments with inpatient pharmacy and Anticoagulation Clinic. She currently practices as Inpatient / NHCU Clinical Pharmacist as well as providing clinical pharmacy services to the nursing home unit.

Cathy Gable, Pharm.D. Dr. Gable received a B.B.A in International Business (1994) and a Pharm.D. (2000) from the University of Georgia. She completed an ASHP-accredited primary care pharmacy practice residency at the Atlanta VAMC (2001). After completion of her residency, Dr. Gable joined the Atlanta VAMC to establish a new service as an inpatient

clinical pharmacist, specializing in adult internal medicine and ultimately critical care. She serves as a preceptor to the primary care pharmacy practice residents and pharmacy students. Her areas of interest include critical care, cardiology, diabetes, hyperlipidemia and hypertension.

Demetria Gaines, Pharm.D. Dr. Gaines received a B.S. in Chemistry (2000) and Pharm.D. (2004) from Auburn University. After graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited primary care pharmacy practice residency at the Atlanta VA Medical Center (2005). Following the completion of her residency, Dr. Gaines worked at Grady Health System in primary care and also gained additional experience at Omnicare and Southern Regional Health System as a staff pharmacist. She later returned to the Atlanta VA Medical Center as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Her current area of practice is in the Anticoagulation Clinic; however, she will be transferring to the Lawrenceville Community Based Outpatient Clinic in the upcoming months to practice primary care

Kathy Davari, Pharm.D. Dr. Davari received her Pharm.D. degree from Mercer University in 1996. After graduation she worked at Eckerd retail pharmacy for 2 years ('96-'98). She, then completed a primary care pharmacy residency at the Atlanta VAMC (1999). Upon completion of the residency, she joined the Atlanta VAMC as a primary care clinical pharmacist. She is currently working with Platinum primary care and mental health teams. She serves as a preceptor to primary care pharmacy residents and pharmacy students. Her areas of interest are cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and pain management.

Kathryn DeSilva, Pharm.D. Dr. Desilva received her Pharm.D. from the University of Michigan in 1987. Upon completion of an ASHP-accredited clinical pharmacy residency from the Memphis VAMC in 1988, she became a clinical pharmacy specialist in infectious diseases at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa. Since 1993 she has been the clinical pharmacy specialist in infectious diseases at the Atlanta VAMC. She has published papers and has given numerous presentations, lectures, and inservices on various topics in the treatment of infectious diseases. Dr. DeSilva currently practices primarily in the HIV Clinic. Research opportunities exist in the clinical management of this patient population.

Allison Torbert Fox, Pharm.D., CDE Dr. Fox received a B.S. in Pharmacy (1995) and Pharm.D. (1997) from Auburn University. She completed an ASHP-accredited primary care pharmacy specialty residency at the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, during which time she was also a clinical instructor for the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy. From 1998-1999, she served as an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy with a practice site in the adult medicine clinics of the St. Louis County Department of Health. In 1999, she joined Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy as an assistant professor of pharmacy and practiced in the Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Center at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL. Dr. Fox came to the Atlanta VAMC in 2001 and was a primary care clinical pharmacy specialist on the Red Team for 5 years, prior to moving to her current position as a primary care clinical pharmacy specialist at

the East Point CBOC. She served as Primary Care Pharmacy Residency Director at the Atlanta VA from 2002-2007. She became a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) in 2005. Dr. Fox's teaching background includes lecturing experience in cardiovascular disorders, diabetic complications, and physical assessment, workshop facilitation, and precepting experience of both pharmacy students and residents.

Auna Harsini, Pharm.D., Dr. Harsini received her Pharm.D. (1995) from Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy and completed a primary care pharmacy practice residency at VAMC-Atlanta in 1996. After completion of her residency, Dr. Harsini joined the VAMC-Atlanta as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Primary Care working with the Purple Team for 8 years. For the past two years Dr. Harsini has been working with the Smyrna CBOC. Her special interests include diabetes, lipid, hypertension, and CHF management. She became a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) in 1999. She precepts 4th year pharmacy students as an adjunct faculty member for Mercer University. Currently she is serving as the Residency Program Director at Atlanta-VAMC.

David Hankin, Pharm.D. Dr. Hankin received B.A. in chemistry and theater (1998) from Wabash College and a Pharm.D. (2002) from Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy. He completed an ASHP-accredited psychiatric pharmacy practice residency at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. Dr. Hankin joined the Atlanta VAMC in July 2003, where he practices as a psychiatric clinical pharmacy specialist and precept future residents on mental health rotations.

Andrea Jackson, Rph Ms. Jackson received a B.S. in Biology from Georgia Southern University in 1993 and a B.S. in Pharmacy from Medical University of South Carolina in 1996. After graduation she worked at Hilton Head Medical Center and Clinics as a Staff Pharmacist(1996-1998). In 1998, she joined Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Medical Center as inpatient/outpatient pharmacist. Later in September 1998, she transferred to the Savannah Primary Care Clinic which is an outpatient veteran affairs clinic associated with Charleston VAMC. In Savannah she was an outpatient pharmacist and in 2000 she transitioned into a primary care clinical pharmacist position. She joined the Atlanta VAMC in 2004 as clinical pharmacy specialist in Anticoagulation Clinic.

Becky Johnson, Pharm.D., BCPS Dr. Johnson received her Pharm.D. (1996) from Mercer University and completed a pharmacy practice residency (1997) at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. She has been a clinical pharmacy specialist at the Atlanta VAMC since 1997, maintaining an active practice in the subspecialty outpatient clinics (cardiology, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension). Dr. Johnson received her board certification in Pharmacotherapy in 1998 with added qualifications in Cardiology in 2000. She was appointed as adjunct clinical instructor at Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Cardiology in 2001 and is active in the training program of the Cardiology Fellows. She has also been a co-investigator in several research projects in the areas of diabetes, cardiovascular risk reduction, and lipid management.

LaWanda Kemp, Pharm.D., CGP Dr. Kemp received her Pharm.D. from the University of Georgia in 1993. She completed the National Pharmacy Cholesterol Council Lipid Training certificate program at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC in Richmond, Virginia in 1994. She completed a Geriatrics Traineeship Program at the Little Rock VAMC in 1996. She worked as the Geriatric Clinical Pharmacist at the Carl Vinson VAMC in Dublin, Georgia from 1995 to 1999. She became a certified geriatric pharmacist in 2000. She currently practices as the Geriatric Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with Geriatrics and Extended Health Care at this facility since July 1999. She also serves as the pharmacy liaison for the Home Based Primary and Palliative Care Program since February 2007. She serves as a preceptor to the primary care pharmacy practice residents.

Alfreda Kinnon, Pharm.D. Dr. Kinnon received her Pharm .D. (1996) from Florida A & M University and completed a pharmacy practice residency (1997) at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, SC. She has been a clinical pharmacy specialist at the Atlanta VAMC since 1997. Her areas of interests are hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia and polypharmacy management. Dr. Kinnon current works as a clinical pharmacist in the Decatur clinic.

Avani Patel, Pharm.D. Dr. Patel received her Pharm. D. from the University of Florida in 2005. After graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited primary care pharmacy practice residency at the Atlanta VA Medical Center (2006). Dr. Patel joined the Atlanta VA Medical Center after completion of her residency as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist working in anticoagulation clinic. She is currently a member of the CBOC-Smyrna team.

Faith Powell, Pharm.D. Dr. Powell received an Associate of Science degree from Chattahoochee Valley Community College (2001) and Pharm.D. from Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy (2006). She completed an ASHP-accredited primary care pharmacy practice residency at the Atlanta VAMC (2007). After completion of her residency, Dr. Powell joined the Atlanta VAMC as a clinical pharmacy specialist. Her current area of practice is in the Anticoagulation Clinic. Other areas of interest are oncology and infectious disease.

Denise Martyn Ritchie, MBA, Pharm.D., CACP Dr. Ritchie received an MBA from St Mary's University in 1986. She earned her Pharm.D. degree from Mercer University in 1995 and completed a Primary Care pharmacy practice residency at the Atlanta VAMC in 1996. She became a board certified Anticoagulation Care Provider (CACP) in 1999. Dr. Ritchie has worked as a term instructor for the University of Maryland overseas division and Big Bend Community college overseas division from 1986 through 1989. She established a CHAMPUS surgical recapture program at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona from 1989-1990. She has worked as a Pharmaceutical Care pharmacist at Kennestone Hospital (1996-1997) and established the Anticoagulation Monitoring Service for WellStar Health Systems (1997-1998). She has worked at the Atlanta VA Medical Center as Lead Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Anticoagulation Clinic from 1998 through 2006. This included clinic operations and precepting

pharmacy students in fourth year rotations, as well as AVAMC pharmacy residents. Dr. Ritchie will be transferring to the Gold Team in the upcoming months to practice primary care.

Kadijeh (Mehran) Salles, Ph.D., Pharm.D. Dr. Salles received her Ph.D. from West Virginia University in 1977. She dedicated her time to teaching and research from 1977-1989 at Pahlavi University, Shiraz, Iran, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., and Washington University, St. Louis, MO. She received her Pharm.D. from Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy in 1995. After completion of an ASHP-accredited drug information residency from Grady Health System /Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy in 1996, Dr. Salles spent one year as a senior research associate in industry, and currently serves as Clinical Pharmacist Research Specialist. Her services as a clinical research pharmacist involve advising, managing, and consulting on all research functions as they pertain to the Pharmacy Service. She is an active member of Research & Development Committee.

