



Birmingham VA Medical Center Pharmacy Practice Residency

Pharmacy Practice Residency (PGY1)

The Pharmacy Residency at Birmingham VA Medical Center is an ASHP accredited Postgraduate Year One (PGY1) program. This program is directed to focus on the development of knowledge, attitude, and skills needed to become a competent clinical practitioner. The training and education of residents will complement existing clinical pharmaceutical care. The residents will be directly involved in providing patient oriented pharmaceutical services as well as participate in other pharmacy operations.

Pharmacists completing this residency will be competent and confident practitioners of direct patient care in multiple patient-care environments. They will be accountable for achieving optimal drug therapy outcomes as members of the healthcare team. The resident pharmacists will exhibit professionalism, utilize effective educational techniques, exercise useful strategies for communication, and develop independent management proficiency. They will exercise leadership skills and improve the cost-effectiveness and safety of the medication-use system; they will demonstrate quality skills in the utilization of medical informatics and the provision of practice-related educational trainings; and they will become professional project managers and have the ability to manage their own practice upon successful completion of the program.

The Training Site

The Birmingham VA Medical Center is an acute tertiary care facility located in the historic Southside district of the city. The facility is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and provides acute tertiary medical and surgical care to veterans of Alabama and surrounding states. The medical center is a 329 bed progressive teaching hospital with 136 beds in operation. It is affiliated with UAB School of Medicine and both Samford and Auburn Schools of Pharmacy. It encompasses Medical, Surgical, Psychiatry, Geriatrics, as well as Home Based Primary Care and Blind Rehabilitation. The immense Ambulatory Care Program consists of Primary Care and numerous specialty Medical and Surgical Clinics. The pharmacy department is staffed by 51 professionals and provides complete pharmaceutical services 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Services provided include unit-dose, IV mixtures, TPN, chemo, and comprehensive clinical pharmacy services.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialists

Clinical pharmacy specialists are assigned to a variety of practice specialties. These include surgery, cardiology, psychiatry, neurology, geriatrics, internal medicine, and

ambulatory care. The pharmacy residents will interface with pharmacy and all clinical pharmacy specialists. Inpatient services include drug information, pharmacokinetic dosing, anticoagulation management, cardiology, antimicrobial pharmacotherapy, adverse drug reaction detection and reporting, drug usage evaluation, and pharmacotherapy consultation. Ambulatory care services include primary care clinic referrals for monitoring hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes, and anticoagulation management. Clinical pharmacy specialists have scopes of practice, which include prescribing authority, laboratory ordering and writing of chart notes.

Residency Training Program and Pharmacy Service

The training and education of residents is an important component of pharmacy service. The services provided by the resident will complement existing clinical pharmaceutical care. The resident will be directly involved in and have responsibility for providing patient oriented pharmaceutical services. The resident will actively participate in other pharmacy operations including management and assigned projects. The resident will develop the knowledge and skills required to become a competent clinical practitioner through training in the following areas of pharmacy practice:

Orientation (required 4 weeks)

Acute Patient Care

General Medicine (required 8 weeks)

Critical Care/Medicine Specialty (required 8 weeks)

MICU/CCU

SICU/CVICU

Ambulatory Patient Care

Primary Care (required 8 weeks)

Anticoagulation (Longitudinal)

Drug Information/Formulary Mgmt/Practice Mgmt (required 8 weeks then longitudinal)

Service Commitment (required half-day per week)

Electives (5 weeks rotations)

Infectious Diseases

Cardiology

Psychiatry

Long term care

Self-directed

Repeats of acute care or primary care rotation

In addition, several ongoing activities throughout the year require resident participation and responsibilities to contribute toward resident development. These include:

- Research project
 - Background preparation, protocol, design, data collection and analysis
 - Presentation at Southeastern States Conference (SSC)
 - Manuscript submission to a professional journal
- Journal Club - participation and/or presentation monthly
- Adverse Drug Event reporting and pharmacist consultations
- Assigned management projects or tasks
- Student preceptorship
- Drug monographs

The Resident Will

- Develop clinical experience as applied in the different program settings.
- Acquire basic skills needed for drug therapy monitoring including patient assessment, history, and laboratory data review.
- Further, develop drug therapy assessment skills through direct patient contact, monitoring of drug therapy, and patient education and counseling.
- Enhance communicative skills through the involvement in-service training of pharmacy, Medical, and nursing personnel.
- Participate in the development and implementation of research project.

Benefits

- Salary: \$ 38,257
- Health/Life Insurance
- Administrative leave with paid registration and travel to attend the following meetings:
 - ASHP Midyear
 - Southeastern Residency Conference

- Thirteen (13) days annual leave
- Thirteen (13) days sick leave
- Ten (10) paid holidays

Application Procedure

Applicants must possess a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from an accredited school or college of pharmacy, or a B.S. or M.S. degree and equivalent training or experience. They must also be eligible for license to practice pharmacy in any state, be a U.S. citizen, and have completed a professional curriculum that includes significant clinical clerkship experience. The application process requires VA application form, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, pharmacy school transcripts, letter of intent and an essay indicating career goals and objectives for seeking a residency. Interviews will be scheduled based on evaluation of the written application. Residents will be ranked for selection based on qualifications and a personal interview. Two positions are available beginning July 1, 2008. Address all inquiries and application materials to:

**Kristie Lin Burnett, Pharm.D.
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APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 15

