

Kansas City VA Medical Center

Setting

The KCVVA Medical Center currently provides services to over 43,000 of the veterans that reside in the Kansas City primary service area. The Medical Center is a tertiary care hospital that serves as a referral center for the Kansas VA Medical Centers in Leavenworth, Topeka, and Wichita as well as the Columbia, Missouri VA Medical Center. This integrated health care system is dedicated to providing quality health care to veterans of mid-America.

In addition to acute care medicine and surgery services, the Medical Center has Primary Care services for all veteran patients. The Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) housed in Overland Park & Paola, Kansas, and in Belton, Cameron, Excelsior Springs, Nevada, & Warrensburg, Missouri provide an extension of these services to veterans in rural areas. Sub-specialists or Specialty Care is also available to patients for evaluation and management of endocrine, pulmonary, gastroenterology, nephrology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, ID and geriatric disorders. Clinical Pharmacy Specialists play an integral role by enhancing care to all patients at the KCVAMC.

As a principal teaching hospital, the KCVAMC is affiliated with the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Pharmacy and the University of Kansas School of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Pharmacy Services

The Pharmacy Service provides 24-hour coverage seven days a week. Patient care is provided by a staff of more than 70 pharmacists, residents, students, and technicians practicing in the inpatient and outpatient care setting.

Ambulatory Care The outpatient pharmacy staff provides pharmaceutical services for primary care and specialty care clinic patients. Pharmacists in these areas provide drug information, observations on patient response to therapy, and appropriate recommendations regarding treatment alternatives or additional interventions to maximize patient care outcomes.

Inpatient Service The decentralized inpatient pharmacy staff provides pharmaceutical care to veterans using a systematic process designed to ensure patients are educated and drug therapy is monitored. New orders are evaluated with attention to drug dosing, drug interactions, and drug allergies. Pharmacists' recommendations are communicated on patient care rounds or directly to the medical, surgical, psychiatric, and critical care teams. Drug distribution is accomplished through centralized unit dose and IV admixture services.

Pharmacoeconomics (PE) Division The Director of PE, Applied PE Specialist, and Managed

Care Pharmacy Resident provide support to the KCVVA and Veterans Integrated Service Network 15 (VISN 15) P&T Committees, and National VA Pharmacy Benefits Management group. Activities include evaluating new and evolving drug therapies, predicting, tracking and trending pharmacy budget, drug utilization evaluation, analyzing adherence to performance monitors, research, and other administrative duties.

Informatics The Pharmacy Informatics group at the KCVVA works to develop and enhance technology that improves patient care and enhances work flow for both the clinical and distributive functions of the pharmacy through use of the electronic medical record (VistA/CPRS) as well as outside vendors. Through incorporation of artificial intelligence and clinical decision support practices, the group is also able to focus on developing reports that enhance the ability to provide population based patient centric care.

Education and Training Members of the pharmacy staff precept residents and KU and UMKC clinical clerkship students.



Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2) Informatics

Purpose

The purpose is to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to assume leadership, information technology, program management, data analysis, formulary management, and/or quality assurance roles within government and non-government managed care or pharmacy benefits management settings as a pharmacy informaticist.

Outcomes

- Evaluate opportunities for improving patient outcomes through the application of pharmacy informatics principles, standards, and best practices.
- Foster effective decision support for members of interdisciplinary health care teams.
- Ensure accuracy of documentation and communication of medication orders by utilizing a standard messaging vehicle, standard vocabularies, and clinically validated data.
- Promote the safe and effective utilization of technology and automation systems for pharmacy operations.
- Execute a project life cycle for a significant pharmacy information technology or automation initiative.
- Function as a leader in the field of pharmacy informatics.
- Demonstrate advanced skills in working with a specific technology or automation product.



The Informatics Pharmacy Residency is a 12-month longitudinal program. This specialized residency program will provide the skills necessary for the practical application of pharmacy informatics principles in a healthcare system.

This PGY2 residency program provides an opportunity to leverage distributive and clinical experiences into the development of new technologies and processes that improve the delivery of pharmaceutical care. The resident will gain valuable cognitive and hands on experience in many areas of health informatics while working with the VA's Electronic Medical Record (VistA/CPRS), the VA Corporate Data Warehouse and numerous supportive VHA and third party patient care systems. The Informatics Team at the KCVA is currently working on numerous technologically innovative projects focused on incorporating artificial intelligence and clinical decision support practices into population based business intelligence reports that greatly enhance our ability to provide population based patient centric care. Kansas City is home to many leading pharmacy informatics related companies, including ScriptPro and Cerner. In addition to VHA resources the resident may partner on projects with UMKC Informatics Specialists and Analysts and work closely with KCVA PharmacoEconomics and Health Outcomes section.

Education will include a university healthcare informatics course, structured didactic informatics lectures, and hands-on application of learned concepts. As adjunct faculty of UMKC School of Pharmacy, the resident will gain experience in lecture preparation, didactic teaching and in the precepting of students on site.

Rotations

Structurally, the residency is divided into consecutive one to four month blocks. The rotations are arranged to ensure that instructional objectives are pursued in a logical, systematic progression that allows building of the proper foundation of skills and concepts needed for the next rotations. The length of the rotation varies with the number and complexity of the goals to be achieved during each block. The ambitious goals of the KCVA managed care residency require careful scheduling in order to distribute the workload evenly throughout the year, so as not to overwhelm the resident at any one time. During each block, several required and elective goals and objectives are emphasized. Simultaneously, the resident is expected to prioritize and work on the ongoing, longitudinal clinical, didactic, staffing, and project activities to ensure continuous growth of clinical skills and pharmacoeconomic application.

In each experience, the resident works closely with the residency director and the rotation preceptor to develop goals and objectives that will assist the resident in expanding skills for current and future practice. Regular meetings with the residency director ensure that long-term goals are met.

Required Rotations:

Orientation (1 month)
Finance (1 month)
Plan Development (2 months)
Quality Assurance (2 months)
Internal Medicine (1 month)
Formulary Management / Evidence Based
Medicine (4 months)
Elective (1 month)

Longitudinal Rotations:

Pharmacoeconomics/Outcomes
Research
Chronic Kidney Disease Clinic
Hyperlipidemia Clinic
Staffing Practice
Residency Project



Benefits

Benefits include health and life insurance, annual leave (vacation), days off for illness/medical appointments/ family care and 10 paid federal holidays. The annual stipend is 44, 522 with *financial compensation for staffing*.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a graduate of an American Council of Pharmaceutical Education accredited School of Pharmacy with a Pharm.D. degree and complete a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency. **Applicants must be U.S. citizens – a requirement to be employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.**

Application

The following items are required to be submitted for application to the program:

- Letter of intent specifying application for the **PGY2 Informatics Residency**
- Curriculum vitae
- Pharmacy school transcripts
- 3 letters of recommendation

A personal interview is required of all selected candidates. This program participates in the ASHP Matching Program.

Deadline for application receipt is **December 31, 2011**. Application materials should be sent to the Residency Director:

**Lauri Witt, Pharm.D.
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Pharmacy Services (119)
4801 E. Linwood Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64128**

For additional information contact

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