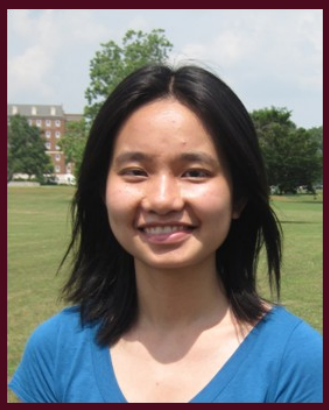
Pharmacy Practice Residency Program



Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center,

Lebanon, Pennsylvania

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) accredited pharmacy practice residency at Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center (LVAMC) is an individualized, organized training program designed to develop clinicians who can practice independently and excel in clinical services and teaching.

The LVAMC pharmacy practice residency trains residents to be well-rounded in inpatient and ambulatory care specialties while also allowing individuals the opportunity to concentrate on their primary interests.

LVAMC is a teaching hospital affiliated with the Penn State University Medical School, based in Hershey. Over 250 medical residents, fellows, and students rotate through the LVAMC every year. As a result, the LVAMC provides an excellent educational environment that emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to patient care.

ROTATION SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

The LVAMC offers seven core required rotations and over six elective rotations throughout the year. The rotation schedule is flexible, allowing residents to tailor the program to their educational needs. Residents also have the option of completing one elective rotation off-site.

CORE ROTATIONS

- Acute Care
- Ambulatory Care
- Extended Care
- Management
- Outpatient/ Primary Care
- Drug Information - Longitudinal
- Hospital Pharmacy Practice - Longitudinal

ELECTIVE ROTATIONS

- Behavioral Health
- Oncology
- Diabetes Care
- Patient Aligned Care Team
- Home Based Primary Care
- Various Off-Site Rotations

ROTATION OVERVIEW

DIABETES CARE

Endocrinology is an elective rotation for the pharmacy practice resident. This experience allows residents to develop expertise in the treatment of patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Clinical experiences for the resident include individual and group diabetes education visits in the inpatient and outpatient settings. The resident is expected to become an important member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team with responsibilities that include: initiation, selection, and monitoring of drug therapy, including optimization of insulin regimens; patient and provider education; provision of drug information and outcome tracking. The resident is also expected to gain knowledge on disease states common in the diabetic patient population. Literature reviews, topic discussions, and direct patient care will be employed to develop expertise in disease states that include hypertension, hyperlipidemia, obesity, smoking cessation, vaccination, and peripheral neuropathy.

AMBULATORY CARE

The Ambulatory Care rotation allows the resident to participate in a pharmacist managed Cardiovascular Risk Reduction clinic (CRR). The Clinical Pharmacy Specialists (CPS) practice under a broad Scope of Practice allowing them to prescribe, monitor, and follow-up on the following disease states: hyperlipidemia, diabetes, and hypertension. The CPS also make pharmacotherapy recommendations to providers on all primary care disease states. The CRR clinic is a consult service used by Primary Care Providers as well as Specialists to help high risk patients, who are resistant to standard treatment, gain control of their disease states and reach their individual therapeutic goals. The main rotation site is at the LVAMC, but there is an option to gain additional experience at one of the Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC). There are educational opportunities throughout the rotation for residents to participate in, including small group teaching for veterans and other healthcare professionals, in-service programs for allied healthcare professionals, pharmacists, and primary care providers.

ROTATION OVERVIEW

MANAGEMENT

Practice Management is a required learning experience. The resident participates on the pharmacy management team, which has the overall responsibility to plan, direct, and coordinate comprehensive pharmacy services throughout the Medical Center.

ACUTE CARE

This experience allows residents to develop expertise in the treatment of acute disease states commonly encountered in the inpatient internal medicine environment. The resident participates in daily medicine rounds with attending physicians, medical residents, and other healthcare professionals to ensure appropriate pharmacotherapy is used for our veterans. The resident is expected to participate in the selection of therapy, respond to drug information questions, counsel patients on the use and side effects of medications, obtain medication histories, and monitor drug levels to make pharmacokinetic dosing recommendations. On this rotation, the pharmacy resident will present a patient case to the pharmacy staff and a lecture to the medical residents and students.

OUTPATIENT / PRIMARY CARE

This required experience allows the resident to work as an integral member of the primary care team. The resident serves as a drug information consultant to clinicians and provides comprehensive pharmaceutical services with a strong focus on patient-centered care. The resident will have ample time to educate patients on their disease states as well as the proper use of their medications and devices.

ROTATION OVERVIEW

EXTENDED CARE

This experience allows residents to develop expertise in the treatment of inpatients requiring long-term treatment of chronic illnesses. The resident rounds with several different extended care teams, working with physicians, physician assistants, medical residents, psychologists, social workers, dieticians, and other healthcare professionals to ensure appropriate care of veterans. In addition, the resident gains a unique experience while working with veterans in our weight loss clinic.

DRUG INFORMATION

Drug Information is a required longitudinal experience which allows residents to develop competency in a broad range of drug information topics.

HOSPITAL PHARMACY PRACTICE

Hospital Pharmacy Practice is a required longitudinal learning experience, which allows residents to develop expertise in the process of preparing and dispensing drugs in the hospital environment.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

This experience is designed for the resident to develop expertise in the treatment of patients with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. The resident becomes an active member of the inpatient psychiatric interdisciplinary team and a liaison between pharmacy and Behavioral Health. The resident will gain proficiency in clozapine and suboxone management.

ONCOLOGY ROTATION

The resident practices at a pharmacy satellite located in an outpatient oncology clinic. This experience focuses on the safe handling and preparation of chemotherapeutic agents and the familiarization with the various regimens and protocols used to treat the most common malignancies found in the veteran population. Experience will also be obtained in the management of erythropoietic stimulating agent therapy for patients with chronic kidney disease and cancer treatment related anemia.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

Additional experience is offered in the areas of emergency department, pulmonary care, or surgery. Residents also have an opportunity to complete one rotation off-site. Residents may choose to complete their off-site rotation at nearby Hershey Medical Center, which offers rotations in pediatrics, transplant, anticoagulation, critical care, and others. Residents can also set up an off-site rotation on their own, based on their professional interests.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT

Residents are required to design, develop, and conduct their residency quality assurance project, and present it at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and at the Eastern States Residency Conference. Residents inclined to publish their results in pharmacy journals are offered guidance and support to accomplish this task.

JOURNAL CLUB

Residents are required to attend and actively participate in journal clubs led by other pharmacy staff, residents, and pharmacy students.

DRUG USE EVALUATION (DUE)

Residents will perform a DUE at least once during the year and present it to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

STAFFING

Residents are scheduled to work one weekend per month in the inpatient pharmacy. Staffing activities include order entry, intravenous admixture including TPN preparations, and responding to physicians' and nursing staff requests.

TEACHING

Residents have opportunities to assist in precepting fourth year pharmacy students on various rotations, perform nursing in-services and give educational presentations for pharmacy staff and medical residents. A teaching certificate program is also available for interested residents.

EVALUATION

Residents are required to complete preceptor and rotation evaluations as well as self evaluation after completing each rotation.

LICENSURE

Residents are expected to obtain a pharmacy license in any state of the U.S. before or during the first month of residency. License transfer to Pennsylvania is not necessary.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP

It is a federal requirement for all employees of the VA system, including residents, to be U.S. citizens either by birth or by naturalization.

PRECEPTORS

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PharmD, Ohio Northern University, 2001
Pharmacy Practice Residency, Huntington VAMC WV, 2002
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Pharmacy Practice Residency, Grant Medical Center, 1984-1986
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ASSOCIATE PRECEPTORS

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Susan Sincavage, PharmD
Patient Aligned Care Team Clinical Pharmacist
PharmD, Wilkes University, 2003
Pharmacy Practice Residency, Lebanon VAMC, 2010
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APPLICATION PROCESS

All applicants who have submitted the requested materials by the application deadline and have met the eligibility requirements below will be considered for on-site interviews. Interviews will be offered to candidates that the program feels will most likely be able to meet the goals of this residency program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Doctor of Pharmacy degree or Bachelor of Pharmacy degree
- Participation in ASHP matching program
- Eligibility for pharmacy licensure in any state of the United States
- U.S. Citizenship

APPLICATION PAPERWORK

- Cover letter
- CV
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official copy of academic transcripts from pharmacy school

DEADLINE

All application paperwork must be received by January 14th. If any of the above materials are not received by the application deadline, the applicant will not be considered for an interview.

CONTACT

Mail your application package to the following address:

Kevin Koons, PharmD, BCPS
Director of Pharmacy Practice Residency
Department of Pharmacy (719)
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
1700 S. Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042

Direct questions to **Kevin Koons, PharmD, BCPS**
email: *kevin.koons@va.gov*
Phone: 717-272-6621 ext. 4450

BENEFITS

- Residents' office
- Use of portable tablet PC, with wireless access to the internet and electronic medical charts
- Reimbursement for pharmacy conferences and travel fees
- Stipend of $41,000 per year
- 13 days paid vacation leave and federal holidays
- Four hours of sick leave earned every two weeks
- Affordable health, dental, and life insurance
- Use of on-site YMCA fitness facilities at no cost

LIFE IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

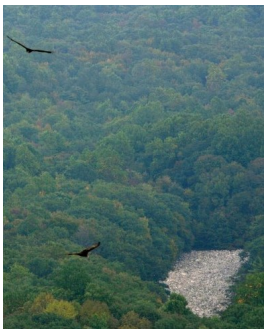
Lebanon is located in South-Central Pennsylvania and is nestled between beautiful farmland and mountains. Lebanon has a small-town atmosphere with a quiet lifestyle and relatively low cost of living expenses.

Cities within a short drive include Harrisburg, the state capital, and Lancaster, known for its vibrant art community and surrounding Amish farms. Nearby Hershey, the chocolate capital of the world, offers one of the nations finest theme parks, golf courses, and excellent restaurants.

Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy hiking on the Appalachian trail, kayaking the Susquehanna, and skiing at Round Top, all within an hour drive. Historical areas, shopping outlets, breweries, and community theaters are also close to Lebanon.

Several major interstate highways intersect the county and provide easy access to many large cities such as Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Washington D.C., and New York City.

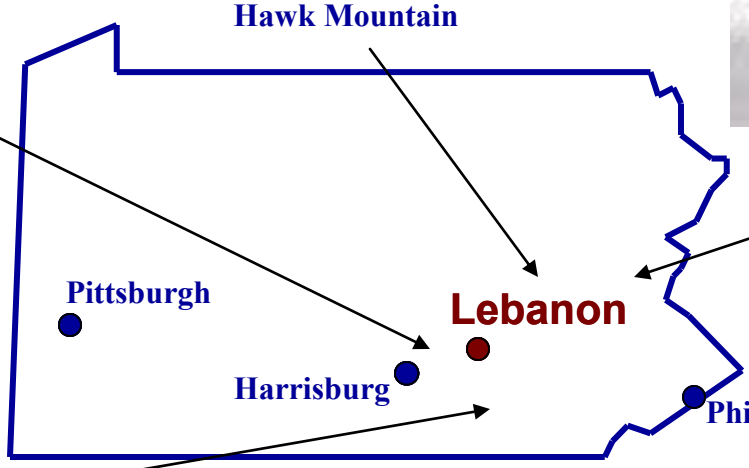
Hershey

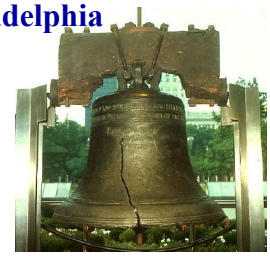


Hawk Mountain

Blue Mountain

Lancaster County





NOTES

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www.lebanon.va.gov

Keystone of Caring
Lebanon VA Medical Center