

# Veterans Affairs Medical Center PGY1 Pharmacy Residency



## Wilkes-Barre, PA

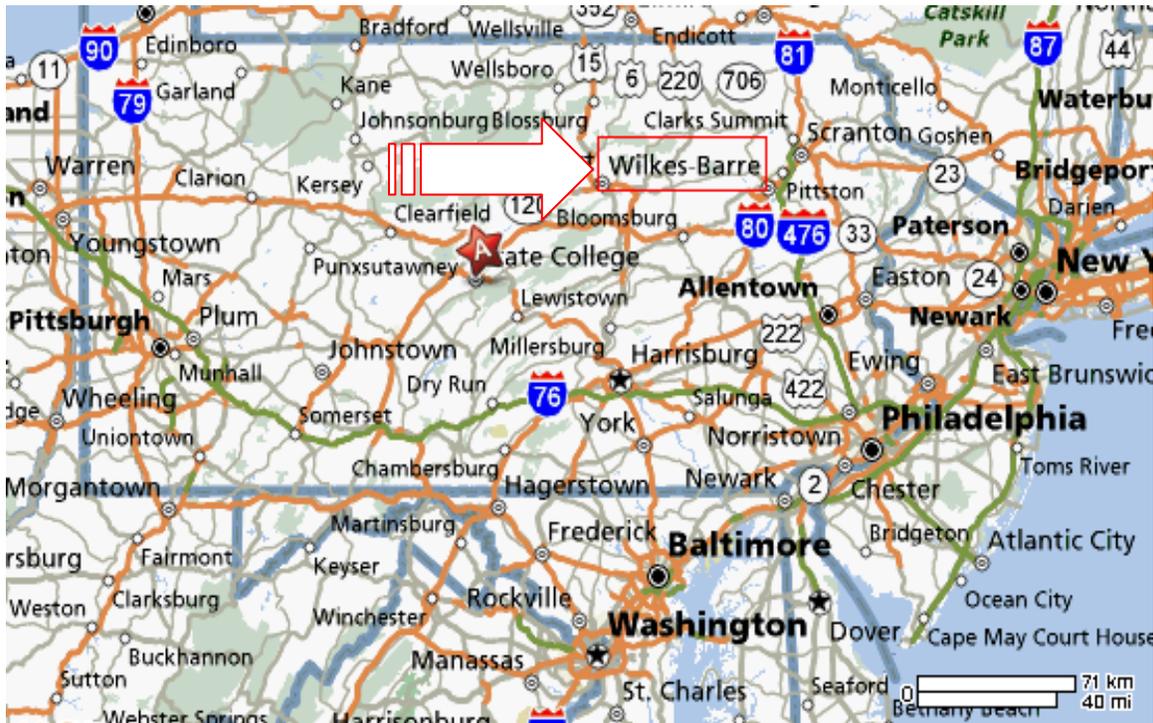
*"To care for him who have born the battle and for his widow and his orphan." ...Abraham Lincoln*

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## WHERE IS THE WILKES-BARRE PA VAMC??

*The Wilkes-Barre VAMC is located in Northeastern PA approximately 2 hours from Philadelphia and New York City. We are within 3-4 hours of Baltimore and Washington D.C.*



# **OVERVIEW OF THE WB-VAMC PHARMACY PRACTICE RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

## **Purpose Statement**

The WBVAMC Pharmacy Practice Residency Program is a 12 month program. The overall goal of the program is to enhance the resident's knowledge and experience in all areas of pharmacy practice. The program's greatest emphasis is on clinical care. The majority of the resident's time will be in clinical development. The WBVAMC resident will be involved in clinical pharmacist operated clinics along and will also serve on an internal medicine team. The resident will also be involved in research and will be required to complete a research project by the end of the residency. Other areas that the resident will be involved include but are not limited to administrative development, teaching, and involvement in multiple committees(i.e. P&T, IRB, R&D, Infection Control, etc). By the end of the program, the resident will become efficient in all areas of pharmacy practice and will be able to function as an independent practitioner.

## **Intended Outcomes of the WB VAMC Pharmacy Practice Residency Program**

- 1.** Provide comprehensive pharmaceutical care to veteran patients.
- 2.** Provide educational services to the pharmacy staff, physicians, nurses, physician assistants and other health care providers about evidence-based pharmacy practice.
- 3.** Function as a collaborative member of a health care team.
- 4.** Manage own practice both effectively and independently.
- 5.** Exercise leadership in developing and implementing Wilkes-Barre VAMC pharmacy based targeted initiatives.

*(These are the original intended outcomes of this program and are reflective of current ASHP requirements)*

***Intended Outcomes as Required by “ASHP Accreditation Standard for Postgraduate Year One Pharmacy Residency Programs”***

1. Manage and improve the medication use process.
2. Provide evidence-based, patient-centered medication therapy management with interdisciplinary teams.
3. Exercise leadership and practice management skills.
4. Demonstrate project management skills.
5. Provide medication and practice-related education and training.
6. Utilize medical informatics.

**Elective outcomes as selected by program preceptors**

1. Contribute to formulary decisions.

## **RESIDENCY PROGRAM STAFF**

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### **CHIEF OF PHARMACY**

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## **CLINICAL PHARMACY STAFF & PRECEPTORS**

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## **INPATIENT PHARMACY SUPERVISOR**

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## **OUTPATIENT PHARMACY SUPERVISOR**

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## THE WILKES-BARRE VA MEDICAL CENTER

- ❑ Is one facility among ten within the VA Stars & Stripes Healthcare Network
- ❑ Service area consists of 19 counties in Pennsylvania and one county in New York that covers over 13,300 square miles with a veteran population of 201,221
- ❑ In FY06 served 42,484 veterans; with 355,326 outpatient visits and an average daily census of 49 patients for the Hospital and 100 patients for the Nursing Home Care Unit
- ❑ Maintains 110 active academic affiliations with colleges and universities
- ❑ Is a General Medical and Surgical facility consisting of 79 Operating Hospital Beds, 165 Nursing Home Beds, and 10 Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program Beds
- ❑ Is affiliated with Drexel University College of Medicine, St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network (medical residency affiliation with Allentown Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)), Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry
- ❑ Special programs offered include: a Hemodialysis Unit, Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Program, Outpatient Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Program, Mental Health Clinic, Polysomnography Laboratory, Short Procedure Unit, Same Day Surgery Program, Women's Health Program, 23-Hour Observation Beds, Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP), a contracted Halfway House, a CARF accredited Healthcare For Homeless Veterans Program, Visual Impairment Services and an American Diabetes Association National Standards for Diabetes Self Management Education Program
- ❑ The extended care program encompasses a Nursing Home Care Unit, a Geriatric Evaluation and Management Program, a CARF accredited Rehabilitation Unit, a Hospice Unit, and the following non-institutional care programs: Home Based Primary Care, VA Adult Day Health Care, Contract Adult Day Health Care, Contract Home Health Care, Homemaker/Home Health Aid, Outpatient Respite, Home Hospice and Care Coordination
- ❑ Diverse services include: Persian Gulf, HIV, Ex-POW, sexual abuse
- ❑ There are Vet Centers located in Scranton and Williamsport

- ❑ Primary Care is also provided through the Medical Center's Community Outpatient Clinics located in Allentown, Columbia County, Northampton County, Sayre, Schuylkill County, Tobyhanna and Williamsport
- ❑ Patient Care delivery is enhanced by Telemedicine Services and Patient Driven Scheduling
- ❑ Acute Hospital Care, Long Term Care and Home Care Programs are accredited by the Joint Commission
- ❑ Recently established a Research department with participation in a Multi-Site Institutional Review Board, the VISN 4 Multi-Site IRB. The first research protocol was approved by the VISN 4 Multi-Site IRB on July 18, 2006

#### **Purpose of the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers**

"To care for him who have born the battle and for his widow and his orphan."...*Abraham Lincoln*

## Wilkes-Barre VAMC Pharmacy Practice Residency Program

- **Clinical Experience(65%)**
  - **Pharmacy Managed Clinics(Mandatory)**
    - Anticoagulation Clinic
    - Lipid Clinic
    - Hepatitis Clinic
      - Research Clinic
    - Medication Management Clinic
    - Immunization Clinic
  - **Other Clinical Rotations(Mandatory)**
    - Critical care
    - Internal medicine
    - Drug Information
- **Hospital Pharmacy Practice & Practice Management(25%)**
  - DUE
  - Pharmacy management and policy
    - Policy development
    - Presentations
    - Drug reviews
  - Inpatient and outpatient pharmacist activities
  - Non-formulary drug reviews
  - Committee attendance
    - P&T
      - Local
      - Regional-VISN 4
    - R&D
    - IRB
    - Infection Control
    - Critical Care
- **Teaching/Education Requirements(10%)**
  - Pharmacy lectures
  - Nursing lectures
  - Grand Rounds Presentation
  - Clinical Staff Conference Presentations
  - Teaching pharmacy students
    - Wilkes University Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing

## 2008-2009 Structure of Learning Experiences

### □ Extended Learning Experiences/Rotations-Mandatory

ROTATION	LENGTH
AC Clinic	8 weeks
Practice Management	6 weeks
Lipid Clinic	8 weeks
Hepatitis Clinic	6 weeks
Medication Management	5 weeks
Internal Medicine	6 weeks
Critical Care	6 weeks

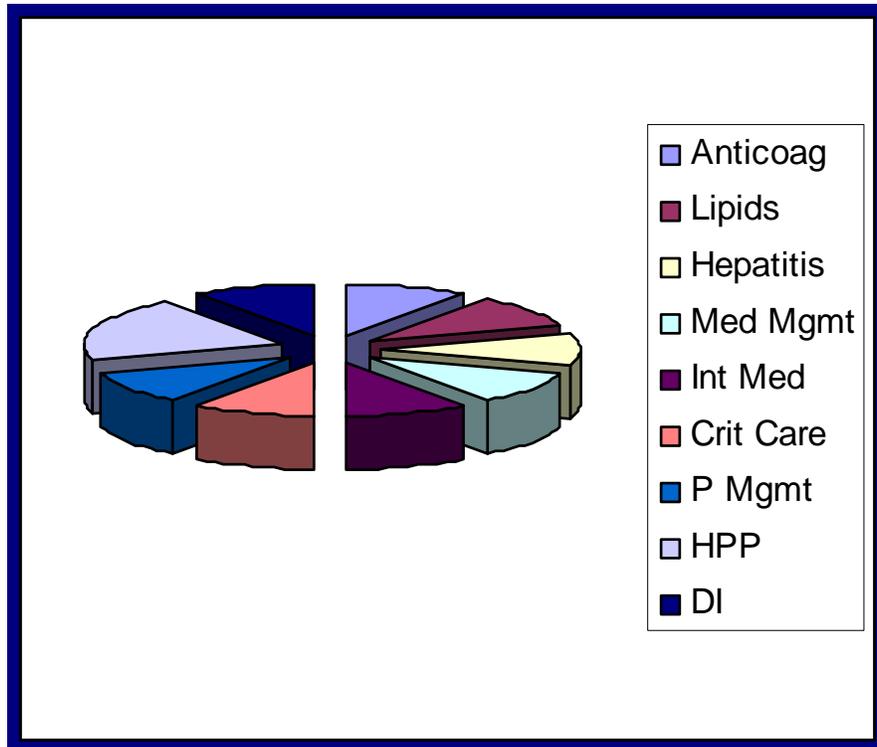
### □ Longitudinal Learning Experiences-Mandatory

ROTATION	LENGTH
Hospital Pharmacy Practice	47 weeks
Drug Information	47 weeks

*Please note:*

- 1. The residency program begins with a 2 week orientation period*

## Breakdown of Resident Time Requirements



*The schedule is an evolving schedule that is subject to change based on the hospital and resident's needs and interests.*

## CLINICAL PHARMACIST MANAGED CLINICS

The Wilkes-Barre VAMC Clinical Pharmacy Program operates 3 outpatient clinics. This includes the Anticoagulation Clinic, Lipid Clinic, Hepatitis Clinic, and Medication Management Clinic. Clinical pharmacists are responsible for managing the care of patients in these clinics including medication ordering, monitoring/ordering labs, and making appropriate changes in therapy. One of the goals of this program is to prepare the resident to become an independent practitioner and these clinics play a vital role in helping the resident achieve this goal.

### ANTICOAGULATION CLINIC

- ❑ The anticoagulation clinic is an outpatient clinic that is staffed by clinical pharmacists
- ❑ There are approximately 800 patients enrolled in this clinic
- ❑ Responsibilities include
  - Monitoring patients INR on a regular basis
  - Scheduling appropriate follow-up
  - Making changes in warfarin as necessary
  - Providing patient education
  - Communicating with primary care providers concerning problems that may arise during therapy
  - Managing adverse drug reactions and drug interactions
  - Managing patient when undergoing invasive procedures
  - Serve as a drug information specialist in regards to all aspects of anticoagulation

### HEPATITIS CLINIC

- ❑ The hepatitis clinic is an outpatient clinic that evaluates and treats patients with chronic hepatitis C
- ❑ Chronic Hepatitis C is a major public health concern
- ❑ Patients are referred to this clinic after they are diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C
- ❑ Responsibilities include
  - Evaluating patients for treatment
  - Initiating treatment when indicated
  - Ordering and monitoring appropriate labs
  - Managing adverse effects of treatment
  - Scheduling appropriate follow-up
  - Communicating with primary care providers concerning patients treatment
  - Provide patient education
  - Serve as a drug information specialist in regards to the treatment of chronic hepatitis C

## **LIPID CLINIC**

- ❑ Patients are referred to this clinic by their primary care providers
- ❑ The primary purpose of this clinic is to treat patients who have had difficulty reaching their goal LDL
- ❑ Responsibilities include
  - Evaluating patients current treatment
  - Making appropriate changes in therapy
  - Monitoring drug interactions
  - Provide patient education
  - Serve as a drug information specialist in regards to medications used to treat hyperlipidemia

## **MEDICATION MANAGEMENT CLINIC**

- Patients are referred to this clinic by their primary care providers
- The primary purpose of this clinic is to help physicians in managing certain disease states, including but not limited to
  - Hypertension
  - Hyperlipidemia
  - Diabetes
  - Congestive heart failure
  - Asthma
  - COPD
- Responsibilities include
  - Evaluating patients current treatment
  - Making appropriate changes in therapy
  - Monitoring drug interactions
  - Provide patient education

## **PHARMACY-BASED IMMUNIZATION CLINIC**

Influenza is a major public health concern of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. A pharmacy managed influenza clinic was started in the fall of 2007 in order to increase vaccination rates of our patients. It was also put in place in order to offer patients a more convenient site to receive their vaccination. Our current resident was instrumental in starting this clinic and the clinic vaccinated over 600 patients. Pharmacy will continue to operate this clinic due to its huge success and future residents will have the opportunity to participate in this clinic.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

All applicants must be registered with the ASHP Residency matching program. The Wilkes-Barre VAMC follows the rules of the Residency Matching Program. The program code is 129513. To apply for the Wilkes-Barre VAMC Pharmacy Practice Residency, please submit your application package containing a cover letter, curriculum vitae (CV), letter of intent, official copy of your pharmacy school transcript, and three letters of recommendation to the Residency Program Director.

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. A thorough review of the applicants pharmacy school transcripts, CV, letters of recommendation, and letter of intent will be performed by the Program Director prior to granting an interview.

If any of the above materials are not received by the application deadline, the applicant will not be considered for an interview. The application deadline is January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

In an increasingly competitive field, a solid past academic performance is an attractive quality in a candidate. However, this is only one small component of being an overall well-rounded candidate. In the healthcare field the ability to work and communicate well with others is a necessity with the team approach utilized today. A positive attitude and motivation to improve the profession of pharmacy cannot be substituted by past academic performance. A pharmacy resident will become an integral part of patient care. As such, they must be dependable, conscientious, attentive to detail, caring, ethical, thorough, and always act in the best interest of the patient. A good candidate is not necessarily the person with the best CV, but is the well-rounded person who cares about the patient and is looking to make a difference.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Doctor of Pharmacy degree or Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from an approved college or university. The degree program must have been approved by The American Council on Pharmaceutical Education(ACPE) or prior to the establishment of ACPE, have been a member of the American Association of the Colleges of Pharmacy(AACP).
- Participation in the ASHP matching program
- Eligibility for pharmacy licensure in any state of the United States
- U.S. Citizenship

### **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 that all employees of the VA must be a US citizen either by birth or naturalization.

## **APPLICATION PAPERWORK**

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

## **DEADLINES**

- All application paperwork must be received by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Mail your application package to the following address :

**Michael J. Surdy, PharmD.**  
Residency Program Director  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
1111 East End Blvd.  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711  
570-824-3521 ext 4150

- Questions concerning the program can be directed to Michael J. Surdy, PharmD,  
Residency Program Director:

**Michael J. Surdy, PharmD.**  
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570-824-3521 x 4150  
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## **OTHER INFORMATION**

- The Wilkes-Barre VAMC will be undergoing our ASHP Accreditation Survey in September 2008.
  - 2008-2009 will be the second year of our program
- We are currently finalizing a formal relationship with the Wilkes University Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing which will provide teaching opportunities for the resident
- 1-2 positions will be available
- The duration of the residency is 12 months
  - July 6<sup>th</sup> 2009-July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010
- Stipend
  - \$38,257 for 2007-2008
- Residents can be hired as a staff pharmacist on a part-time basis, not to interfere with their residency hours or performance
  - Determined by Residency Program Director and Chief of Pharmacy

## **BENEFITS**

- Residents office with personal computer & wireless access to the internet
- Computerized patient record system
- Reimbursement for all pharmacy conferences and travel fees
- Free printing of residency project poster
- 13 days paid vacation days and 10 paid holidays
- Four hours of sick leave earned every two weeks
- Affordable health, dental and life insurance

## **LIFE IN NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

Wilkes-Barre is located in Northeastern Pennsylvania along the Susquehanna River.

Activities in the area include golf, fishing, hunting, boating, and skiing. There are several state parks in the area that provide many outdoor activities. There are also several golf courses in the area for those who enjoy the sport. Nearby Montage Mountain provides skiing and snowboarding along with being the home of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees, the Triple-A affiliate of the New York Yankees. Concerts are also held every summer on Montage Mountain. The Wachovia Arena in Wilkes-Barre is the home of the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins, the American Hockey League affiliate of the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins and the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Pioneers of the Arena Football 2 League. There are also several shopping malls and movie theaters located in the immediate area along with many restaurants.

Wilkes-Barre is near several major highways and is located 2 hours from Philadelphia and New York City and approximately 3-4 hours from Baltimore and Washington D.C. The Pocono Mountains are located approximately 45 minutes from Wilkes-Barre. The Wilkes-Barre Scranton International Airport is within 15 minutes of the Medical Center.

# NORTHEASTERN



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# PENNSYLVANIA