Kansas City VA Medical Center

Setting

The KCVA Medical Center currently provides services to over 48,000 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 Schools 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 settings.

Ambulatory Care The clinic 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. The pharmacists in these clinics function as mid-level practitioners and work under a scope of practice.

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 Division The team includes a Pharmacy Outcomes/Healthcare Analytics pharmacist and Formulary Management pharmacist who provide support to the KCVA and Veterans Integrated Service Network 15 (VISN 15) P&T Committees as well as the 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, academic detailing and other administrative duties.

Informatics

The Pharmacy Informatics group at the KCVA 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.

Residency Program

PGY1 Pharmacy Practice

Education and Training

Members of the pharmacy staff precept UMKC and KU Clerkship students. A teaching certificate program is available through the University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Pharmacy.

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 $41,098 for PGY1 program with *financial compensation for staffing* in all programs.

Eligibility

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

Application

The following items are required for application to any program:

- Letter of intent
- Curriculum vitae
- Pharmacy school transcripts
- Three references completing template in PhORCAS

A personal interview is required of all selected candidates. All programs participate in the ASHP Matching Program.

Application materials should be submitted via PhORCAS. Deadline for application is **January 4.** Candidates will be notified of interview status no later than February 1.

For additional information contact:

Lauri Witt, Pharm.D., BCACP
Residency Program Director
lauri.witt@va.gov

Postgraduate Year One (PGY1) Pharmacy Practice Residency

Purpose

PGY1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and outcomes to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists responsible for medication-related care of patients with a wide range of conditions, eligible for board certification, and eligible for postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training.

Competencies

- Patient Care
- Advancing Practice and Improving Patient Care
- Leadership and Management
- Teaching, Education, and Dissemination of Knowledge

Training Overview

- Provide personalized pharmaceutical care services to promote an ethical, caring, trusting relationship and enhance patient outcomes in all settings
- Demonstrate confidence to function competently in many health care settings
- Develop knowledge of drug information systems, drug use evaluation, and formulary management
- Possess and know how to develop marketable skills and program development skills
- Acquire computer literacy
- Develop a foundation in effective management, time management and other organizational skills
- Be proficient in written and oral communication skills
- Contribute well-designed and meaningful research to the professional literature
- Develop problem solving skills

This 12 month residency in Pharmacy Practice has been conducted for over 25 years. It provides a good balance of both acute and ambulatory pharmacy experiences. By following patients through the continuum of care offered in a VA setting, residents are afforded the opportunity to longitudinally monitor patients' progress. In addition, the resident will gain valuable experience in our pharmacy and medical center administrative programs, including Joint Commission compliance, patient safety initiatives, and performance improvement. Projects will encompass the Kansas City VA Medical Center, Veterans Integrated Service Network 15 (VISN 15) and National VA National Pharmacy Benefits Management Group and will include, local and/or national drug utilization reviews, developing VA local drug monographs and/or criteria for use and compiling the quarterly Pharmacy Newsletter.

The resident will be afforded the opportunity to participate in many educational programs including a teaching certificate program offered through the UMKC School of Pharmacy and pharmacy CE presentations. 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 9 rotations of varying length. The rotations are arranged to combine required experiences along with electives in the resident's identified area of interest to allow pursuit of residency and expansion of skills throughout the year. Simultaneously, the resident is expected to prioritize and work on ongoing requirements in longitudinal clinical, didactic, management and residency project rotations.

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:

Acute Care Selective (2 rotations)
- Cardiology
- ID
- Medical Intensive Care
- Perioperative Care
- Psychiatry

Ambulatory Care CDM Clinic (6 weeks)

Ambulatory Care Selective (2 rotations)
- Anticoagulation
- CV/Diabetes
- Home based Primary Care
- ID/HIV
- Oncology
- Psychiatry
- Rural Health

Internal Medicine (6 weeks)

Orientation (5 weeks)

Electives (2 rotations)

Longitudinal Rotations:
Clinical Practice (5 1/2 months):
- Diabetes Digma
- Geriatric Clinic
- HIV/ID Clinic

Pharmacoeconomics (all year)
Practice Management (3 months)
Residency Project (all year)
Staffing (all year)

Current Residents

Beth Bedel, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Practice
Elizabeth.bedel@va.gov

Liz Ficek, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Practice
Elizabeth.ficek@ va.gov

Kelsey Morris, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Practice
Kelsey.morris@ va.gov

Completion of a residency project of the Resident's choosing is also required. Residents work with a Pharmacy preceptor, mentor to plan, carry out and evaluate the results of this project. The results are presented at an ASHP affiliate Spring Meeting and at the Midwest Pharmacy Residents Conference.