

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration



VACCHCS

VA Central California Health Care System

Post Graduate Year One (PGY1)
Pharmacy Residency Program

VA CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
PHARMACY SERVICE (119)
2615 E. CLINTON AVENUE
FRESNO, CA 93

Welcome!



Welcome to the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at VA Central California Health Care System (VACCHCS)! Our program provides a robust and comprehensive year of training, with learning experiences that span the entire spectrum of health care management and delivery. We pride ourselves in our ability to tailor our experiences to meet the needs and goals of individual residents. We have a progressive training environment, where pharmacists with a scope of practice may prescribe medications, order laboratory and diagnostic tests, and place consults to other services. Being a mid-sized teaching facility, we offer residents diverse learning opportunities within a close-knit, supportive culture. Our residents appreciate this dynamic, as well as the benefits of practicing within the largest integrated health care system in the nation (check out the TOP 10 Reasons to Work at VA below). We prepare our residents for a career or further residency training across settings. With strong leadership support, we have been fortunate to retain many of our residents in a variety of positions. Our facility is located in sunny Fresno, CA, where residents can enjoy the perks of city and country life. Geographically, we are in the middle of CA, and very close to some of the best National Parks – options for getaway adventures are endless!

With this booklet, we hope that you enjoy learning more about our residency program, pharmacy services, and organization. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions as you explore our program!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kori E. Malepsy".

Kori E. Malepsy, Residency Program Director

Kori.Malepsy@va.gov

559-241-6490



VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

TOP 10 REASONS TO WORK AT VA

- The mission to serve America
- Largest integrated health care system in the country
 - Largest provider of advanced clinical training for medical, nursing, and associated health professions in the nation
 - Largest program for advanced clinical pharmacy training, with 159 ASHP-accredited programs across the VA system; residents have professional development opportunities on local, regional, and national levels
- Access to cutting-edge technology
- Education support
- Work/life balance
- Exceptional benefits
- Team-based, Patient-focused
- Live and work anywhere
 - Pharmacists can be licensed in any state
- Leadership training
- The best patients – Veterans!

<https://www.vacareers.va.gov/Careers/Pharmacists/>

Table of Contents

<u>Content</u>	<u>Page #</u>
VA Central California Health Care System (VACCHCS) Overview	4
VACCHCS Pharmacy Service Overview.....	5
Fresno	6
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Description	7
Program Structure.....	7
Application Qualifications and Process.....	10
First Position Accepted Post-Residency.....	10
Program Preceptors.....	11
Program Contact Information	16
2020 Residency Virtual Open House and Showcase Information.....	17



VA CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (VACCHCS) OVERVIEW

VACCHCS, located in Fresno, California, is a 57-bed acute care, general medical and surgical center with state of the art primary, secondary and tertiary care in major diagnostic and treatment specializations. In addition, a 54-bed Community Living Center (CLC) is located on campus and provides skilled nursing and rehabilitation care. The health care system has 40,000 Veterans enrolled for health care eligibility and serves more than 28,000 Veterans in six counties in the San Joaquin Valley. The six counties include Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced and Mariposa. Three Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) support this wide catchment area, including:

- The Merced CBOC, located 60 miles north of Fresno in downtown Merced, provides primary care, mental health, audiology and eye care to patients from Madera and Merced Counties.
- The Oakhurst CBOC, located 46 miles northeast of Fresno, opened in April 2011. It is in close proximity to Yosemite National Park and serves Veterans living in the rural foothill areas of Madera and Mariposa Counties.
- The Tulare CBOC, located 46 miles south of Fresno, provides Primary Care, Mental Health, Audiology, and Eye Care to patients. The Tulare CBOC serves patients in Tulare County, which includes the cities of Visalia, Tulare, Porterville and Veterans residing in Kings County, the home of Naval Air Station, Lemoore, CA.



Fresno Campus

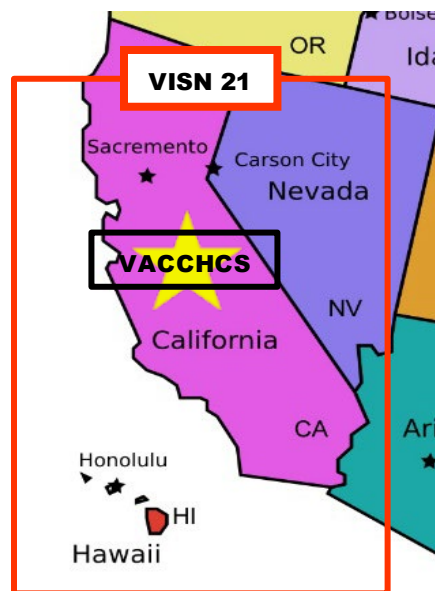
Merced CBOC

Oakhurst CBOC

Tulare CBOC

VACCHCS uses Telehealth services, such as video conferencing, to increase timely access to high quality care. The facility is a part of the VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21), which is one of 18 Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). VISN 21 includes seven VA Medical Centers, nine co-located CLCs, and 41 CBOCs located in northern and central California, Nevada, Hawaii, the Philippines and U.S. Territories in the Pacific Basin.

VISN 21 is remarkable in several ways – one of which is its academic affiliations. All seven VISN 21 health care systems have highly successful clinical affiliations with prestigious universities in the areas of medicine, nursing, and allied health professions. VISN 21 hosts the largest number of Centers of Excellence in VHA, receives the most research funding in VHA, and has expansive and collaborative relationships with its Department of Defense partners. VISN 21 is on par nationally with inpatient and outpatient satisfaction measures, and often exceeds the VHA national average. VISN 21 has ranked number 4 among all VISNs for best places to work based on the most recent All Employee Survey. The network is committed to ensuring that Veterans have full access to the highest quality of care, and that patients and staff alike have high levels of satisfaction.



VACCHCS PHARMACY SERVICE OVERVIEW

Mission and Vision: The mission of the VACCHCS Pharmacy Service is to serve America's Veterans by providing timely, accurate, personalized, comprehensive, and innovative pharmaceutical and clinical care in a safe and supportive environment that improves their health and wellbeing. Its vision is to be the pharmaceutical care provider of choice for Veterans. The vision statement includes:

- *We will be an essential component of the patient focused Health Care Team.*
- *We will create a practice environment that fosters education, research, and professional development.*
- *We will advance the use of innovative technologies to ensure consistent, accurate and reliable medication distribution, education and information systems.*
- *We will provide pharmaceutical services during national emergencies, disasters and other events that adversely affect our Veterans.*
- *We will be an employer of choice for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and supportive staff by providing a compassionate, diverse, and progressive work environment.*

Description: The VACCHCS Pharmacy Service consists of approximately 49 pharmacists, including residents, and 31 pharmacy technician and support staff. The organizational chart includes a Service Chief, three Associate Chiefs designated for Clinical, Inpatient, and Outpatient areas, and program managers and support staff who oversee Pharmacy Education Programs, Informatics, Pharmacoeconomics, and Medication Safety. Pharmacy staff collaborate with all members of the health care team, patients, and their caregivers to provide care for Veterans.

Providing care for Veterans, while, at the same time, educating health professionals, is a core VA mission. The Pharmacy Service is committed to providing quality training to interns and residents, operating under the premise that the best health care is provided in an environment in which the spirit of inquiry and investigation exists in combination with teaching and learning. The service has academic affiliations with seven different schools of pharmacy, with 30-50 interns rotating on site each year for various Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE and APPE) rotations. In 2020, the pharmacy team was awarded *Fresno APPE Site of the Year* from the University of California, San Francisco, for its dedication to training.

Clinical: The Clinical division of the Pharmacy Service has over 20 Clinical Pharmacy Specialists (CPS) operating as mid-level practitioners functioning under a Scope of Practice (SOP), as well one Clinical Pharmacy Technician who supports clinical initiatives. Having a SOP allows the CPS to provide comprehensive care in a variety of clinical specialty areas including primary care, anticoagulation, mental health, pain management, pulmonary care, infectious diseases, substance use disorders, smoking cessation, and oncology. The CPS also support VA formulary management by ensuring that medication use within the local system remains in line with National cost effective guidance. Additionally, the CPS are actively involved in VISN21 Pharmacy Benefits Management workgroups and initiatives aimed at improving the health of Veterans and ensuring the appropriate use of medications. Each year, VISN performance metrics and advanced clinical support tools, i.e. dashboards, are developed to achieve these initiatives. The workgroups and metrics are diverse, covering academic detailing, adverse drug event reporting, various clinical specialties (e.g., antimicrobial stewardship, oncology, mental health, pain), cost savings initiatives, and medication safety. According to VA workload measures, the CPS at VACCHCS are among the most productive in the nation, which is a testament of their commitment to Veteran care.

Inpatient: The Inpatient division provides clinical and operational pharmaceutical services to all acute and ambulatory/specialty clinic care areas in the facility. Among the inpatient staff are CPS designated for each rounding Medicine/Surgery team, the Emergency Department, and Transitions of Care, all operating under a SOP, as well as technicians designated for medication reconciliation on admission, oncology services, and dispensing of controlled substances. A CPS Program Manager oversees compounding of sterile preparations and hazardous drugs.

Inpatient operational services are provided 24/7 with CPS and technicians designated for core functions including medication reconciliation and counseling, order verification, drug information, and all drug storage, preparation, and distribution. Operations are supported with unit dose and automated dispensing technology including FastPak and Pyxis. BD Pyxis IV Prep is also being implemented in a newly developed USP-800 compliant IV room to aid in sterile compounding. Inpatient team members also provide investigational drug services and participate in/lead local and VISN Committees such as Code Blue, Nutrition Support, and Wound Care. They play a key role in preparing, implementing, and maintaining inpatient protocols and policies/procedures, and in educating inpatient health care staff.

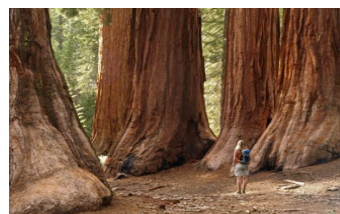
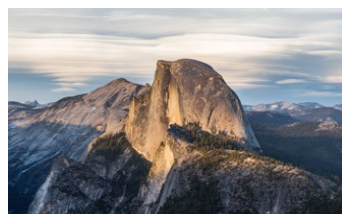
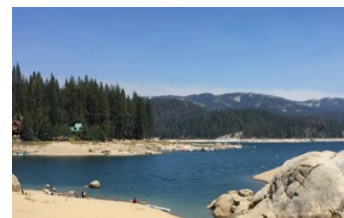
Outpatient: The Outpatient division provides medications/supplies and consultation services to Veterans on weekdays. Staff collaborate closely with VA and community providers to ensure safe and quality care. Having access to the patient medical record allows them to proactively identify and resolve interventions to optimize therapy and prevent adverse outcomes. ScriptPro technology is utilized to support operations. Among the outpatient team are technicians who specialize in managing all automation and drug procurement for the Pharmacy Service. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Outpatient Pharmacy processed approximately 340,000 prescriptions and counseled over 15,000 patients. Most of these prescriptions, being new, were dispensed locally versus a majority of prescription refills (>70%) were dispensed from the regional VA Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP). In Fiscal Year 2020, the Outpatient Pharmacy dispensed a total of 100,016 prescriptions locally and processed/refilled an additional 586,398 prescriptions for dispensing at CMOP.

The Pharmacy Customer Care Center (or call center) is an extension of the robust Outpatient Pharmacy services. The goal of the call center is to provide exceptional customer service and timely drug information to Veterans and providers. It currently operates with eight pharmacy technicians and a pharmacist program manager, and averages over 400 calls a day. In addition to inbound calls, the call center team leads outbound call campaigns related to drug shortages, backorders, recalls, conversions as well as calls related to opioid safety initiatives at the facility.

Geriatrics/Extended Care: VACCHCS also has a Geriatrics/Extended Care Service, with a team of several pharmacists who provide inpatient care in the Community Living Center (skilled nursing and rehab facility) and outpatient care via Geriatric Primary Care Clinic, Endocrinology and Diabetes Clinics, and Home Based Primary Care.

FRESNO

VACCHCS is located in Fresno, CA, which is in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. The city has become an economic hub of the area with a growing metropolitan area and population. Surrounding areas support large-scale fresh agricultural production. For those who enjoy the outdoors, there is easy access to national parks such as Yosemite National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, as well as China Peak Mountain Resort.



Images: Pixabay

PGY1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The VACCHCS PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program was established in 2010 and is accredited by ASHP. It is a full-time, temporary appointment with an anticipated duration of one year. Residents are employed with the Federal government and thus are subject to all regulations and requirements of the Federal system. The residency program is designed in accordance with the ASHP Accreditation Standard for Post Graduate Year One (PGY1) Pharmacy Residency Programs. Competency areas include: 1) Provision of patient care; 2) Advancing practice and improving care; 3) Leading and managing, and 4) Teaching, educating, and disseminating knowledge.

The purpose of this residency program is to build on Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) 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. Residents are a member of the health care team and deliver patient care in ambulatory, acute, and long term care settings. They are actively involved in formulary and medication-use management, medication safety, and systems improvement activities, while serving as educators for patients, pharmacy interns, and other health professionals. Residents also learn how to self-evaluate and incorporate feedback to support continuous professional development.

Summary:

- Residency Program: Full-time
- Duration of Program: 12 months
- Number of Positions: 2
- Residency Start Date: July 1
- Estimated Stipend: \$41,533 per year
- Benefits: Federal health benefits and life insurance available, education and travel allowances, 13 days of paid vacation, 13 days of sick leave, 10 paid federal holidays

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Table 1. Outline of Program Structure

Learning Experiences		Duration
First Week	Residency Introduction and Onboarding	One week
Required Core Learning Experiences	Inpatient Pharmacy/IV Orientation	3 weeks
	Outpatient Pharmacy Orientation	2 weeks
	Acute Care Internal Medicine I and II*	5 weeks each (10 weeks total)
	Ambulatory Care I and II*	5 weeks each (10 weeks total)
	Practice Management	5 weeks
Required Longitudinal Learning Experiences* <i>*Begin after orientation rotations are finished</i>	Ambulatory Care	Year-long; one half-day per week
	Leadership Development and Project Management	Year-long; may take up to 7 project days/year (max 3/rotation)
	Major Project	
	Staffing	Year-long; 1 weekend and 1 evening shift every 3 weeks, and 1 major and 1 minor holiday
Elective Learning Experiences	Elective opportunities: Emergency Medicine, Geriatrics, Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Informatics, Managed Care, Pharmacy Customer Care Center, Psychiatric Acute Care, Psychiatric Ambulatory Care, Transitions of Care	5 weeks each (3 electives total, or 15 weeks elective time total)
Conferences	ASHP Midyear, CSHP, Western States	Approximately 2 weeks total, spread out throughout the year

*Acute Care Internal Medicine I and Ambulatory Care I take place in the first half of the residency program; Acute Care Internal Medicine II and Ambulatory Care II take place in the second half of the residency program

Table 2. Overview of Required Core Learning Experiences

Core Learning Experiences	Experience Includes
Inpatient Pharmacy/IV Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic Medical Record (VISTA/CPRS) orientation, order entry and verification, inpatient automation, dispensing/checking, intravenous products preparation/checking, medication delivery and other inpatient operations
Outpatient Pharmacy Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic Medical Record (VISTA/CPRS) orientation, outpatient/clinic order entry and verification, outpatient automation, dispensing/checking, counseling and other outpatient operations
Acute Care Internal Medicine I and II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute Care Internal Medicine I: Intensive Care Unit Acute Care Internal Medicine II: General Medicine Units Daily multidisciplinary rounds and clinical interventions, pharmacokinetic and anticoagulation monitoring, nutrition support, admission and discharge medication reconciliation, discharge counseling, inpatient consults and multidisciplinary in-services, acute care topic discussions, journal club, patient case presentation
Ambulatory Care I and II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amb. Care I: Primary Care Clinics Amb. Care II: Primary Care, Women's Health, and Anticoagulation Clinics Chronic disease state management, outpatient consults and multidisciplinary in-services, ambulatory care topic discussions, journal club, patient case presentation
Practice Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug use criteria or treatment guideline/protocol development, process improvement activities, medication event reporting and follow-up, departmental management topic discussions, facilitation of administrative meetings and tasks

Table 3. Overview of Required Longitudinal Learning Experiences

Longitudinal Learning Experiences	Experience Includes
Ambulatory Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One half-day per week in a clinic selected after orientation rotations Clinic opportunities: Anticoagulation, Benzodiazepine Taper, Clozapine, Erythropoietin, Hematology/Oncology, Pain Management, Psychiatry, Pulmonary Chronic disease state management with opportunity for ongoing follow-up with patients
Major Residency Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year-long project presented at Western States Conference Manuscript submitted by the end of residency Resident may develop a project or select one from the site Project committee meets weekly or as designated by the team to support project implementation
Project Management and Leadership Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-formulary consult management and adverse drug event reporting Medication use evaluation presented at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and local P&T Committee Facilitating Pharmacy Week, weekly RPD meetings and case discussions with students, P&T Committee activities, and Pharmacotherapy Newsletters Journal clubs and presentations (patient cases, M&M, leadership/preceptor development) Quarterly self-reflections for development planning
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inpatient, one weekend and one evening shift every three weeks, and one major and one minor holiday Residents cover clinical and operational duties

Table 4. Overview of Elective Learning Experiences

Elective Learning Experiences	Experience Includes
Emergency Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily patient chart reviews and clinical interventions, medication reconciliation and discharge counseling, anticoagulation and pharmacokinetics, ACLS, emergency medicine topic discussions and in-services/presentations
Geriatrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in different clinical settings such as skilled nursing facility, geriatric medicine ambulatory care, home care service, and/or telemedicine • Daily patient chart reviews and medication management, pharmacokinetics and nutrition support evaluation, wound care rounds, medication reconciliation and discharge counseling
Hematology/Oncology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment and monitoring plans of various malignancies including solid tumors and hematologic malignancies • Chemotherapy teaching, management of chemotherapy toxicities, and delivery of drug information to physicians and nurses • Multidisciplinary journal club and presentations
Infectious Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antimicrobial stewardship review and interdisciplinary treatment rounds with infectious diseases team, participation in ID outpatient clinic management, ID topic discussions, presentations, and in-services
Informatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate current automation, technology, and pharmacy practice to improve safety and operational efficiency and productivity • Apply information systems and technology to improve Veterans care
Managed Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the health care system formulary and performance metrics, formulary initiatives, and local and VISN P&T Committee
Pain Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in an interdisciplinary clinic, comprised of a nurse practitioner, psychiatrist, and pharmacist, to manage patients with chronic pain • Daily opportunities within patient appointments to practice motivational interviewing and to provide medication counseling • Exposure to opioid discontinuation or rotation, non-opioid management, substance abuse, and risk mitigation strategies
Pharmacy Customer Care Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage and facilitating prescription-related issues, management of drug recalls and shortages, customer care quality initiatives, telephonically provide medication education and counseling
Psychiatric Acute Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary rounds with inpatient psychiatry team, exposure to outpatient mental health clinics which may include clozapine clinic, benzodiazepine taper clinic, substance abuse, and/or rural clinic telehealth
Psychiatric Ambulatory Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily treatment and monitoring of mental health, benzodiazepine taper clinic, long-acting injectables, and substance use disorder patients through telephone and video clinics • Review of complex cases and consults with mental health team
Transitions of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide pharmacy support for Veterans transitioning from acute or sub-acute care settings to home, and for inpatient transitions of care activities including process improvement projects and development of medication reconciliation web-based software • Telephone and video-based visits to complete comprehensive medication reconciliation; partner with providers to assist in management of ambulatory care sensitive conditions • Manage ESA therapy for Veterans with chronic kidney disease-associated anemia and assist Veterans discharged home after major orthopedic surgery with pain medication management

APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCESS

Table 5. Outline of Application Qualifications and Process

Applicant Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States Citizenship• Graduation from ACPE accredited School or College of Pharmacy• Pharmacist licensure in any state obtained by Oct 1 of the residency year• Application submitted via PhORCAS
Application Process	Application must be submitted through PhORCAS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter of Intent• Curriculum Vitae• Three Letters of Recommendation<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ At least one letter should come from a preceptor from a clinical rotation• Official Transcript
Application Deadlines	Phase I Deadline: January 1
NMS Match Code	188813

FIRST POSITION ACCEPTED POST-RESIDENCY

2019 – 2020 Residents

- Internal Medicine Pharmacist, VA Central California
- Mental Health Pharmacist, VA Central California

2018– 2019 Residents

- Primary Care Pharmacist, VA Central California
- PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency, VA Palo Alto

2017 – 2018 Residents

- Transitions of Care Pharmacist, VA Central California
- Inpatient Pharmacist, Doctors Medical Center of Modesto

2016 – 2017 Residents

- Internal Medicine Pharmacist, VA Central California
- Pain Pharmacist, VA Central California

2015 – 2016 Residents

- CMM Program Director, Preveon Health
- Mental Health Pharmacist, Kaiser Permanente Diablo Service Area

2014 – 2015 Residents

- Women's Health Pharmacist, VA Central California
- Pharmacoeconomics Pharmacist, VA Central California

2013 – 2014 Residents

- Anticoagulation Pharmacist, VA Central California
- PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

2012 – 2013 Resident

- Community Pharmacist, Safeway Pharmacy
- Inpatient Pharmacist, VA Palo Alto

2011 – 2012 Residents

- Inpatient Pharmacist, Johns Hopkins Hospital
- PGY2 Pharmacy Outcomes and Health Care Analytics, VISN 21

2010 – 2011 Resident

- Anticoagulation Pharmacist, VA Central California

PROGRAM PRECEPTORS

LISA ADAMS, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, CGP, CPE, CWS, FASCP

Learning experience(s): Geriatrics Elective

Pharmacy school: University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy, WY and Purdue College of Pharmacy, IN

Postgraduate training/experience: Certified Diabetes Educator, Certified Pain Educator, Wound Management

Practice area(s): Geriatrics Management Evaluation Clinic, Home Based Primary Care

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy teaching.

MARK APARICIO, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Managed Care Elective

Pharmacy school: University of California San Diego - Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at VA Fresno, CA

Practice area(s): Pharmacoeconomics, Formulary Management

What makes you interested in precepting? Precepting is a rewarding and mutually beneficial practice that serves to strengthen the future of pharmacy practice, but also forces the preceptor to keep themselves sharp and up to date. Playing a part in that process becomes a win-win in terms of experiences gained.

KATE BASTIAN, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Pharmacy Call Center Elective, Practice Management

Pharmacy school: University of the Pacific – Thomas J. School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: VA over 10 years

Practice area(s): Program Manager/Clinical Pharmacist for the Pharmacy Call Center

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy having the opportunity to give back, and help teach and mentor our residents.

KAMALJIT BHANGOO, PharmD, BCACP, BCPS

Learning experience(s): Ambulatory Care and Longitudinal Ambulatory Care – Anticoagulation

Pharmacy school: Western University of Health sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: Retail five years (pharmacy manager at Walgreens), VA over eight years

Practice area(s): Anticoagulation

What makes you interested in precepting? For me, precepting residents is a way to pay forward opportunities that I was given. Being a mentor, I can help them get a glimpse into the real world of pharmacy, and help them hone their skills to become well-prepared, proficient pharmacists in the future. I also get to learn from them while teaching what I know. It is a very fulfilling part of my job.

BRETT BORBA, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Managed Care Elective

Pharmacy school: University of the Pacific – Thomas J. School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGYI Pharmacy Residency at St. Joseph's Medical Center, CA; retail nine years, VA over 11 years

Practice area(s): Managed Care and Smoking Cessation

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy being able to give residents a behind the curtain look at how VA Pharmacy is uniquely structured in order for us to provide optimal care for our Veterans.

CHE-MIN CHANG, PharmD, BCOP

Learning experience(s): Hematology/Oncology Elective, Longitudinal Ambulatory Care – Hematology/Oncology

Pharmacy school: Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy, VA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Martha Jefferson Hospital, VA; PGY2 Oncology Practice at Karmanos Cancer Center, MI

Practice area(s): Hematology/Oncology Clinic

What makes you interested in precepting? To help train future pharmacy practitioners.

JOHN CHANG, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Acute Care Internal Medicine

Pharmacy school: Loma Linda University, School of Pharmacy, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Desert Regional Medical Center, CA

Practice area(s): Internal Medicine

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy teaching, collaborating with, and watching residents develop and become confident in acute care medicine.

DAVID CHARLESTHAM, PharmD, BCPP

Learning experience(s): Longitudinal Ambulatory Care – Benzodiazepine Taper and Clozapine, Psychiatric Acute Care Elective

Pharmacy school: Belmont University College of Pharmacy, TN

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Winchester Medical Center, VA; PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Loma Linda, CA

Practice area(s): Inpatient Acute Care Psychiatry and Ambulatory Care Mental Health Clinic

What makes you interested in precepting? Throughout my own past experiences, I have trained with many caring, knowledgeable, and inspirational preceptors. I appreciate the opportunity to share this training with the next generation of pharmacy professionals.

BETH CURCIN, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Ambulatory Care – Primary Care

Pharmacy school: Loma Linda University, School of Pharmacy, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Residency at VA Fresno, CA

Practice area(s): Primary Care

What makes you interested in precepting? Precepting allows me the opportunity to give back to the field. It's rewarding to see a resident's knowledge and confidence grow throughout rotations.

WILLIE EIRICH, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Ambulatory Care and Longitudinal Ambulatory Care – Anticoagulation

Pharmacy school: Loma Linda University, School of Pharmacy, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at VA Fresno, CA

Practice area(s): Anticoagulation Clinic

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy seeing other people learn.

SADIA KHAN, PharmD, BCPS

Learning experience(s): Acute Care Internal Medicine

Pharmacy school: University of Florida College of Pharmacy, FL

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at North Florida/South Georgia VA, FL

Practice area(s): Internal Medicine

What makes you interested in precepting? Residents bring new perspectives to my practice with their questions and curiosity. I love being able to share things I've learned with my future colleagues, and I learn from them too!

KRISTINE LOWE, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Inpatient Pharmacy/IV Orientation, Staffing (Inpatient)

Pharmacy school: University of the Pacific – Thomas J. School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: Retail 13 years, outpatient VA approximately one year, inpatient VA

Practice area(s): Hospital Operations

What makes you interested in precepting? Being in their shoes once before, I would like to pay it forward and help the future of our field, as preceptors have helped me before.

JON MALEPSY, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Infectious Diseases Elective

Pharmacy school: University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, MN

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency and PGY2 Infectious Diseases Residency at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, MN

Practice area(s): Infectious Diseases, Antimicrobial Stewardship, HIV

What makes you interested in precepting? I like seeing residents grow in their knowledge and clinical skills as they go through my rotation. I feel as if I become a better ID pharmacist through teaching because of the challenging questions that residents often ask. Teaching helps me to think more deeply about what I know and what I still need to learn. I also like to educate future practicing pharmacists on the optimal use of antibiotics because I feel as if it will translate into more intelligent use of these drugs and help fight against antibiotic resistance.

KORIE MALEPSY, PharmD, BCPS

Learning experience(s): Longitudinal Ambulatory Care – Pulmonary, Project Management and Leadership Development

Pharmacy school: University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, MN

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Minneapolis VA, MN; PGY2 Health System Pharmacy Administration Residency at VA Palo Alto, CA

Practice area(s): Program Manager for Residency, Student Education, and Medication Safety; Pulmonary Clinic

What makes you interested in precepting? Having the opportunity to shape and share meaningful experiences with trainees, seeing their growth while also learning from them, and contributing to the future of the profession – it is what I love about my job!

BRUCE MANZO, PharmD, BCPS

Learning experience(s): Inpatient Pharmacy/IV Orientation

Pharmacy school: University of the Pacific – Thomas J. School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Parkview Health Systems, IN

Practice area(s): Administration

What makes you interested in precepting? While I enjoy passing my experience and knowledge to new residents, I really appreciate the insight and challenges associated with each person I meet. Teaching encourages me to stay on top of all of my administrative and clinical skills. I also feel proud of the accomplishments of each resident in their post-residency careers.

JEFFREY MCCAMISH, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Ambulatory Care and Longitudinal Ambulatory Care – Pain Management

Pharmacy school: University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: DEA certification to prescribe schedule III narcotics, prescribing non-opioid medications for pain under SOP, prescribing naloxone as part of risk mitigation

Practice area(s): Chronic Pain Management

What makes you interested in precepting? Provide background in pharmacist role in pain management as part of an interdisciplinary team.

JOSHUA MISI, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Transitions of Care Elective

Pharmacy school: Touro University California College of Pharmacy, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at VA Fresno, CA

Practice area(s): Transitions of Care, ESA Therapy Management, Postoperative Pain Management

What makes you interested in precepting? Transitions of Care is a burgeoning area of practice within pharmacy and I would like to provide more opportunities for residents to gain exposure and participate in patient care within this specialty.

MARK MYERS, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Ambulatory Care – Primary Care/Women’s Health

Pharmacy school: The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, TX

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 at VA Black Hills, Ft. Meade, SD

Practice area(s): PACT Pharmacist for the Oakhurst CBOC and the Women’s Health clinic

What makes you interested in precepting? I have sought opportunities to be involved in teaching at multiple points in my life (teaching English in China, intelligence briefer in the US Navy). I very much enjoy interacting with professionals who are eager to learn, but mostly I value and appreciate the fact that it enables me to continue learning and stay current as well.

NADER NASSAR, PharmD, BCPP

Learning experience(s): Longitudinal Ambulatory Care – Psychiatry, Psychiatry Ambulatory Care Elective

Pharmacy school: Regis University College of Pharmacy, CO

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, KS

Practice area(s): Mental Health

What makes you interested in precepting? Seeing the residents grow throughout the year and develop their own practice.

DAVID NGUYEN, PharmD, BCPS

Learning experience(s): Informatics Elective

Pharmacy school: Regis University School of Pharmacy, CO

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at SSM St. Mary’s Hospital, MO; Willow Inpatient Epic Certification

Practice area(s): Clinical Pharmacy Informaticist

What makes you interested in precepting? I want to promote the advancement of pharmacy practice for our future pharmacists. I want to show them there are other ways of impacting and promoting safe patient care through information technology.

ADAM SALEH, PharmD, BCPS

Learning experience(s): Emergency Medicine Elective

Pharmacy school: University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, NY

Postgraduate training/experience: Internal Medicine, Critical Care, Inpatient Pharmacy

Practice area(s): Acute Care/Emergency Medicine

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy interacting with the residents and helping them make connections between what they learned in school and real-life practice.

JENNIFER SIILATA, PharmD

Learning experience(s): Ambulatory Care – Primary Care

Pharmacy school: University of the Pacific – Thomas J. School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: Internal Medicine, Heart Failure Clinic, Hepatitis C Clinic, Wound/Ostomy Care

Practice area(s): Primary Care

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy teaching residents. I enjoy learning from them as well. There is so much more to patient care than what is taught in school and I strive to give residents the opportunity to develop those skills using their individual gifts/talents.

CHEREE SOSIN, PharmD, BCPS

Learning experience(s): Ambulatory Care – Primary Care

Pharmacy school: University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Clovis Community Medical Center, CA

Practice area(s): Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Primary Care

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy the challenge of precepting and model my precepting after a great mentor I had. He would say, “A good pharmacist knows the guidelines, but a great pharmacist knows why the guidelines say what they do” as he dove into primary literature.

BARBARA VAN MATER, PharmD

Learning experiences: Acute Care Internal Medicine

Pharmacy school: University of the Pacific – Thomas J. School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: Poison Control; Pain Specialist, CRMC; Oncology, CRMC; Hospice Compounding Medicine; Home Health IV Service, CRMC; Internal Medicine, CRMC; Community Pharmacy, Walmart; Administration as Chief of Pharmacy, Dinuba/Reedley Hospitals and Miami VAHS, Outpatient Manager; Internal Medicine, VACCHCS

Practice area(s): Critical Care

What makes you interested in precepting? I love to share my knowledge with the residents so they may become well-rounded practitioners that can work independently with confidence in their own practice.

NORA YANG, PharmD

Learning experiences: Outpatient Pharmacy Orientation

Pharmacy school: University of the Pacific – Thomas J. School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, CA

Postgraduate training/experience: Administration

Practice area(s): Associate Chief, Outpatient Pharmacy Operations (Administration)

What makes you interested in precepting? I enjoy watching residents grow throughout the year and making a difference in their lives. I like to empower residents to reach their full potential and to watch them grow to become super clinicians. Each resident has unique learning capabilities. As a preceptor, one has to adapt to the resident's learning style. Precepting teaches me patience along with improving my listening and communication skills. I also enjoy learning from the residents as well.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

RESIDENCY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Kori E. Malepsy, PharmD, BCPS

PG1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director

Medication Safety Pharmacist

Kori.Malepsy@va.gov

(559) 241-6490

David Charlesthram, PharmD, BCPP

Residency Program Coordinator

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health

David.Charlesthram@va.gov

(559) 225-6100 ext. 4883

Nader Nassar, PharmD, BCPP

Residency Program Coordinator

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health

Nader.Nassar@va.gov

(559) 225-6100 ext. 5134

CURRENT 2020 - 2021 RESIDENTS

HongKong Tran, PharmD

HongKong.Tran@va.gov

(559) 225-6100 ext. 6342

Jenny He, PharmD

Jenny.He5@va.gov

(559) 225-6100 ext. 6342



2020 RESIDENCY VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE AND SHOWCASE INFORMATION

Visit the VACCHCS PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at its virtual open house and/or at ASHP Midyear!

PGY1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Meeting via Webex
Friday, November 13, 2020
12:00 – 1:00 PM PST

RSVP via email at HongKong.Tran@va.gov and Jenny.He5@va.gov
to receive the meeting link

ASHP MIDYEAR RESIDENCY SHOWCASE

Virtual Showcase
Tuesday, December 8, 2020
12:00 – 3:00 PM PST

More information available at:
<https://midyear.ashp.org/Residency-Showcase>

VA Central California Health Care System
Pharmacy Service (119)
2615 E. Clinton Ave
Fresno, CA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs