For general information, contact
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Director, Pharmacy Education & Training
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(858) 642-3497
VA San Diego Healthcare System

VHA Mission Honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.

VHA Vision
- VHA will continue to be the benchmark of excellence and value in health care and benefits by providing exemplary services that are both patient centered and evidence based.
- This care will be delivered by engaged, collaborative teams in an integrated environment that supports learning, discovery and continuous improvement.
- It will emphasize prevention and population health and contribute to the nation’s well-being through education, research and service in national emergencies.

Core Values (I.C.A.R.E)
- Integrity: Act with high moral principle.
- Commitment: Work diligently to serve veterans and other beneficiaries.
- Advocacy: Be truly veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of veterans and other beneficiaries.
- Respect: Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect.
- Excellence: Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement.

Key Facts
- Provided high quality health care to 84,712 Veterans in the San Diego and Imperial Valley counties in fiscal year 2018 (FY18)
- Offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient health services at the medical center in La Jolla, six community based outpatient clinics located in Chula Vista, Escondido, Imperial Valley, Mission Valley, Oceanside and Sorrento Valley and a residential rehabilitation treatment program
- Provides medical, surgical, mental health, geriatric, spinal cord injury, and advanced rehabilitation services
- Training site for 1,399 medical interns, residents and fellows, as well as 676 other health professionals from pharmacy, nursing, dental, and dietetics
VA San Diego Healthcare System
Pharmacy Service

Our Values
- **P** Patient-centric, Patience, Professional, Pro-active
- **H** Helpful, Honest
- **A** Accessible
- **R** Responsible, Respectful
- **M** Meticulous, Mentor
- **A** Accurate
- **C** Caring, Competent, Clinical, Collaborative
- **Y** Because Veterans come first

Provision of Care
- Pharmacy services provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Decentralized unit-dose service with Barcode Medication Administration, IV Additive Service, Automated Dispensing Systems, Physician Order Entry and Automated Prescription Filling
- Our Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacists, Inpatient Clinical Pharmacists, and Clinical Specialists provide a wide range of pharmaceutical care services to veterans in the inpatient and outpatient settings.

Our Staff and Preceptors
- 74 pharmacists serve as preceptors to our resident trainees
  - Most have greater than 5 years of experience serving as a preceptor to residents
  - Many are Board Certified as Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCPS), Oncology Pharmacists (BCOP), Psychiatric Pharmacists (BCPP), Ambulatory Care Pharmacists (BCACP), Critical Care Pharmacists (BCCCP) and Geriatric Pharmacists (BCGP)
  - More than half possess Scopes of Practices which allow for prescriptive authority

Our Teaching Program
- Multiple PGY1 and PGY2 residency training programs
- Have academic relationships with two Schools of Pharmacy – University of the Pacific (UOP) and University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
- Annually provide APPEs to approximately 30 students

Poonam P. Tzorfas, Pharm.D., MBA
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# Pharmacy Residency Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>Established</th>
<th>Accreditation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PGY1 Pharmacy - Track A General</td>
<td>5-6</td>
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<td>PGY1 Managed Care</td>
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<td>PGY2 Critical Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGY2 Oncology</td>
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<td>PGY2 Pain &amp; Palliative Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy</td>
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*Note: Many programs allow for PGY2 Early Commitment*

We offer residents many opportunities to practice in a number of clinical settings, including our expansive ambulatory care clinics. Our affiliations with pharmacy schools at University of California, San Diego and University of the Pacific facilitate the development of teaching skills. Our preceptors are committed to supporting the residency program and assisting residents throughout the year.

We hope you will join us at the VA San Diego Healthcare System for your residency year. We look forward to receiving your application!

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Program Director, PGY1 Pharmacy  
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**Nermeen Madkour, PharmD, CSP**  
Program Director, PGY1 Managed Care  
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2019 - 2020 PGY1 Residents

Michelle Fang, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Track A
Michelle.Fang@va.gov

Thomas Hanson, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Track A
Thomas.Hanson1@va.gov

Meghan Kamath, Pharm.D.
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Tiffany Tran, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Track A
Tiffany.Tran2@va.gov

Emma Huynh, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Track A
Hien.Huynh1@va.gov

Jessica Ruzich, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Track B
Jessica.Ruzich@va.gov

Sean Azizi, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Managed Care
Sean.Azizi@va.gov
General Residency Information

Pay and Benefits

Period of Appointment
• PGY1: 12 months, from June 29, 2020 through June 25, 2021
Estimated Stipend: $46,030 (PGY1)

Benefits
• 13 days Annual Leave (“vacation”) and 13 days of Sick Leave
  • Leave is earned at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks
• 11 federal holidays
• Health, life, vision/dental insurance options
• Office with up-to-date computer systems
• Lab coats and lab coat laundry service
• Free parking off-site
• Professional Meetings
  • Authorized Absence (leave with pay) to attend selected meetings
  • Partial financial support for registration fees and travel expenses to attend selected meetings

Pharmacist Licensure
Professional pharmacist licensure from any state must be obtained either prior to the beginning of the residency program or the resident must provide proof of sitting for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and Multistate Pharmacist Jurisprudent Licensure Examination (MPJE) within 30 days from the first day of their residency training and must obtain professional pharmacist licensure within 90 days from the first day of their residency program.

Note: California licensure is highly encouraged for residents who wish to rotate through or conduct direct patient care activities in non-VA facilities.
PGY1 Program Overview

Program Purpose

PGY1 Pharmacy (Tracks A and B)

- Develop pharmacists who are:
  - Prepared to provide cost-effective pharmacotherapy to adult and geriatric patients in acute and ambulatory care settings
  - Proficient in communicating with and educating trainees, pharmacists, other health care providers and the community on drug related topics
  - Competitive for additional post-graduate training, i.e., PGY2 or Fellowships

PGY1 Managed Care

- Develop pharmacists who are:
  - Eligible for a position in a managed care setting such as:
    - Formulary Management Pharmacist, Prior Authorization Pharmacist, Pharmacoconomics Specialist, Drug Information Pharmacist, etc.
  - Skilled in formulary management and development processes, such as:
    - Presenting at Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee/Medication Safety Committee
    - Drafting guidance document (conversions, protocols, criteria for use, monographs, etc.)
    - Managing clinical programs, drug utilization reviews, cost-saving initiatives, and quality improvement projects
    - Reviewing non-formulary and prior authorization consults
## PGY1 Program Structure

### Overview
Orientation (3-4 weeks), 10 rotation blocks (5-6 weeks each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotations (# of blocks)</th>
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<th>Track B Ambulatory Care Emphasis</th>
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<td>Positions</td>
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### Elective Rotations
- Ambulatory Care
- Cardiology
- Emergency Department
- Geriatrics/Nutrition
- Informatics
- Oncology
- Pain Management
- Nephrology
- Surgery
- Spinal Cord Injury

### Ambulatory Care Clinics
- Anticoagulation
- Chronic Heart Failure / Cardiology
- Diabetes
- Gout
- Lipid
- Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT)
- Renal
- Smoking Cessation
- And more!

### Longitudinal Experiences
- Teaching Certificate Program
- Formulary Consults
- Medication Safety Project
- Research Project
- Skill Development Series
- Pharmacy Practice Management
- Service Enhancement Project (Track B only)
Additional Training

Pharmacy Teaching Program
• Our pharmacy residents participate in the teaching of approximately 30 Doctor of Pharmacy students from the University of the Pacific and University of California, San Diego Schools of Pharmacy
• Pharmacy Residents serve as a preceptor to APPE students during rotations by providing formal and informal teaching and mentoring
• Residents facilitate weekly conferences consisting of topic discussions and clinical case presentations

Skill Development Series / Teaching Certificate Program
• All pharmacy residents participate in a Skill Development Series, which includes regularly scheduled discussion of research-related topics such as study methodology, biostatistics, literature evaluation, individual residency research projects and other contemporary topics relevant to health care professionals
• Participation in our Teaching Certificate Program is required and consists of didactic seminars and homework assignments, development of a personal teaching philosophy and providing formal teaching experiences in clinical rotational settings

Additional Requirements for Completion of PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

- Staffing Assignments
- Formal Research Project and Report
- Research Platform Presentation to VISN 22 / Southern California Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows and Preceptors
- Formulary Project (i.e., Drug Monograph or Drug Class Review)

- 1+ Monthly Adverse Drug Reaction Report
- 1+ Presentation to the Opioid Safety Initiative (OSI) Committee
- Continuing Education Presentation
- Formal participation in P&T Committee, Medication Safety Committee or other multidisciplinary medical center committees
Resident Service Commitment

Staffing will be scheduled once the resident has evidence of professional licensing and has demonstrated appropriate competencies. Training will be provided.

Staffing Requirements

PGY1 Pharmacy Track A – General
- At least 20 inpatient days (includes 2 weekend days) during Medicine
- At least 6 days in the Ambulatory Care “Primary Care” Clinics and Outpatient Pharmacy
- Additional staffing days required during Critical Care, Psychiatry and selected elective rotations
- At least one additional weekend day scheduled for training

PGY1 Pharmacy Track B – Ambulatory Care Emphasis
- At least 6 days per month in the Ambulatory Care “Primary Care” Clinics or Outpatient Pharmacy while on ambulatory care rotations
- Two days per month in Psychiatry Clinics during Psychiatry rotation
- Additional staffing days may be required during selected elective rotations
  - At least 8 inpatient days per month during selected acute care rotations (Medicine, Geriatrics, Critical Care, SCI)

PGY1 Managed Care Pharmacy
- At least 15 inpatient days (includes 2 weekend days) during Medicine
- At least 4 days in the Ambulatory Care General Medicine (“Primary Care”) Clinics and Outpatient Pharmacy
- Additional staffing days may be required during selected elective rotations

VA Stand Down
- Operation Stand Down is an annual program that provides up to 900 Veterans with services such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and other service referrals. Resident will work 1 day.
First Position Accepted Post-Residency (Previous 5 graduating classes)

**PGY2 Residency Training Programs:**
- VA San Diego Healthcare System
  - Critical Care
  - Infectious Diseases
  - Nephrology
  - Oncology
  - Psychiatric Pharmacy
- Academic Medical Centers
  - Ambulatory Care / Virginia Commonwealth University
  - Pharmacy Informatics / UCSF
  - Infectious Diseases / UCSF
  - Oncology / University of Colorado – Denver
- Other Health Care Organizations
  - Medication Safety / Kaiser Oakland

**Pharmacy Practice Positions:**
- VA San Diego Healthcare System
  - Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care
  - Clinical Pharmacist in Acute Care (Emergency Department / Medicine)
- Other VA Healthcare Systems
  - Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at VA Northern California Healthcare System
  - Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
  - Clinical Pharmacist in Pain Management at VA Palo Alto Healthcare System
  - Clinical Pharmacist in Quality Assurance at VA Tucson CMOP
- Other Healthcare Organizations
  - Clinical Pharmacist at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, CA
  - Clinical Pharmacist at OptumCare in Salt Lake City, UT
  - Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at Preveon Health in Colton, CA
  - Clinical Pharmacist at Scripps Mercy in San Diego, CA
  - Clinical Pharmacist at Sharp Grossmont in San Diego, CA
  - Drug Education Coordinator - Kaiser Permanente - Vallejo (CA)
  - Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist at Anaheim Regional Medical Center (CA)
  - Managed Care Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente - Santa Clara (CA)
Applicant Qualifications

• Register with the ASHP Resident Matching Program accessible at http://www.natmatch.com/ashprmp/

• Possess United States citizenship; Naturalized citizens must be able to provide proof of naturalization

• Possess a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited School or College of Pharmacy

• PGY1 applicants must be eligible for licensure to practice pharmacy from any state at the beginning of their residency program

• PGY2 applicants must be licensed to practice pharmacy from any state at the beginning of their residency program

• PGY2 applicants must complete or be in the process of completing an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency OR have equivalent experience

Application Process

• All application materials must be submitted through Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application (PhORCAS):
  
  • **PHASE I DEADLINE for ALL Programs** is January 1, 2020
  
  • **PHASE II DEADLINE for ALL Programs with available positions** is April 3, 2020

• Submitted Materials must include:
  
  • Basic Demographics
  
  • Verified Transcripts for Schools or Colleges of Pharmacy Only
  
  • Personal Statement / Letter of Intent
  
  • Curriculum Vitae
  
  • Three letters of recommendation using the standardized reference template in PhORCAS
  
  • Extracurricular Information

• Selected applicants will be invited to a personal on-site interview occurring in February. Candidates who are not invited for an on-site interview will be notified via e-mail.
2019 Residency Showcase Information

CSHP Seminar
- Anaheim, CA
- Friday, October 18 (2-6PM)
- Booth 307

ASHP Midyear
- Las Vegas, NV
- Tuesday, December 10 (8-11AM)
- Booth 5125

Open House
- VA San Diego Healthcare System
- Saturday, December 21 (9-11AM)
- For prospective 2020-2021 PGY1 Candidates Only
- RSVP here: https://tinyurl.com/VASanDiego-2019-OpenHouse
Pharmacy Service (119)
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161
VOICE: (858) 642-3026 or (858) 642-3497
FAX: (858) 642-1608