PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Programs
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 84,572 Veterans in the San Diego and Imperial Valley counties in fiscal year 2020
- Offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient health services at the medical center in La Jolla, seven community-based outpatient clinics located in Chula Vista, Escondido, Imperial Valley, Mission Valley, Rio, Oceanside and Sorrento Valley and a residential rehabilitation treatment program (ASPIRE Center)
- Provides medical, surgical, mental health, geriatric, spinal cord injury, and advanced rehabilitation services
- Training site for 1,256 medical interns, residents and fellows, as well as 526 other health professionals from nursing, dental, dietetics and including 45 from pharmacy.
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
- 75 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), Ambulatory Care Pharmacists (BCACP), Cardiology Pharmacists (BCCP), Critical Care Pharmacists (BCCCP), Geriatric Pharmacists (BCGP), Oncology Pharmacists (BCOP) and Psychiatric Pharmacists (BCPP)
  - 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
Chief, Pharmacy Services
poonam.tzorfas@va.gov
(858) 642-3026
Pharmacy Residency Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>Established</th>
<th>Accreditation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PGY1 Pharmacy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY1 Managed Care</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>ASHP/AMCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Ambulatory Care</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Critical Care</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration &amp; Leadership</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Oncology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Pain &amp; Palliative Care</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>ASHP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Many PGY2 programs allow for PGY2 Early Commitment

We offer residents many opportunities to practice in several 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!

Jonathan P. Lacro, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP  
Director, Pharmacy Education & Training  
Program Director, PGY1 Pharmacy  
jonathan.lacro@va.gov  
(858) 642-3497

Thanh (Tanya) Tran, Pharm.D., BCPS  
Program Director, PGY1 Managed Care  
thanh.tran3@va.gov  
(858) 642-3287
Kevin Le

Hi everybody! I was born and raised in Simi Valley, CA. I completed my undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences at UC Santa Barbara and went up the coast to complete my PharmD at UC San Francisco. Outside of pharmacy, my passions are watching sports (Go Lakers!), training for half (sometimes full) marathons, and attending concerts! I chose the VA San Diego for the opportunity to serve the veteran population, wide variety of PGY-2 opportunities, and A+ location. I couldn’t be more excited to build friendships and grow throughout the year with both my PGY-1 and PGY-2 co-residents. My clinical interests include ambulatory care (especially diabetes) and oncology. I look forward to meeting you all and would love to discuss our wonderful program more!

Alexis Morabe

Hi everybody! I am a third-generation San Diegan that grew up in Temecula, CA. I received my Chemistry BS from UC Berkeley and my PharmD from UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy. In my spare time you can find me paddle boarding, dancing, or making my own kombucha! I chose a residency at VA San Diego because of my familial roots in the military and desire to give back to Veterans. Rotating here as a student also allowed me to interact with an engaged pharmacy staff that is valued throughout the hospital. I was drawn to the program because of the collaborative and progressive culture – including opportunities to interact with multiple specialists through electives and PGY-2 residencies. My clinical interests include acute care, specifically critical care. Please reach out if you have any questions or want to learn more about our program 😊

Quynh My Nguyen

Hello everyone! I am from West Covina, CA. I received both my BS in Biochemistry/Chemistry and PharmD from UC San Diego. I love San Diego and the ocean so much so I decided to stay here for residency as well! I chose VA San Diego for many reasons: the veterans who are so open to student learning, the collaborative interdisciplinary environment, the healthy work-life balance, great preceptors, diversity of rotations, and strong psychiatry experience. Outside of pharmacy, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, hiking, singing, writing, and chilling on the beach. My clinical interests include psychiatry and infectious diseases.
2021-2022 PGY1 Pharmacy Residents

Kendra Salangsang

Hi everyone! I was born and raised in Santa Cruz, CA. I studied Biology at San Jose State University for my B.S. and went to University of the Pacific (UOP) for pharmacy school. I completed my APPE rotations here in San Diego, and immediately fell in love with the city. Many of my rotations were here at VA San Diego and I felt so welcomed, supported and challenged by all the wonderful preceptors here. I am so happy to continue my training as a PGY1 at VA San Diego! My areas of interest are within inpatient pharmacy, especially in critical care and infectious diseases. I am excited to explore San Diego further and try all the amazing food spots – there are many! I also want to get my own paddleboard and get out on the water as much as possible. There are endless options of things to do here in San Diego, and you will love your experience here!

Alison Truong

Hello everyone! I was born and raised in Alhambra, Ca which is in Los Angeles County. I graduated as a Biological Sciences major from the University of California Santa Barbara and completed my PharmD at the University of the Pacific Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy. I chose VA San Diego because of the wide array of elective rotations, the teaching opportunity for residents and most importantly, the preceptors who cultivate an environment for growth and professional development. I am super excited to train alongside my co-residents and can’t wait to make lifelong memories with them! In my free time, I enjoy traveling, baking, gardening, and going to concerts with my friends. I love having movie nights and games nights and can’t wait for things to start opening up again. My clinical interest includes psychiatry and Infectious diseases

Hilary Velazquez

Hey there! I was born and raised in Riverside, CA. I completed my undergraduate degree in Cell and Molecular Biology at Cal State Long Beach and my PharmD at UC San Diego. I had the opportunity to complete a handful of my rotations as a pharmacy student at VA San Diego and was drawn to this program because of the supportive preceptors, the diversity of clinical experiences offered, and teaching opportunities. I am looking forward to expanding my clinical knowledge while giving back to our Veteran community. Outside of pharmacy, I enjoy taking my dog to the beach, finding new places to hike, and napping. I hope to pursue a career in administration or infectious diseases.
Katrina Sales

Howdy! I am originally from the Sunshine State (Jacksonville, FL) and completed my PharmD at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, Go Gators! I completed my APPE rotations at the North Florida/South Georgia VA in Gainesville and knew I wanted to stay within the VA because of the opportunities to practice managed care within the largest integrative healthcare system in the US. I’m looking forward to building relationships with the pharmacy team and gaining a strong foundation in managed care. Outside of pharmacy, I’m looking to explore San Diego’s beaches and hiking trails, scout the best dessert shops, and find the most elite taco shop! My hobbies include paddleboarding, hosting game nights, and crafting charcuterie boards. My interest lie in formulary management and clinical program management, and my goal is to specialize in one of these areas. You’ll love your experience here and we can’t wait to meet you!
General Residency Information

Pay and Benefits

Period of Appointment
• **PGY1**: 12 months, from June 27, 2022 through June 23, 2023

Estimated Stipend: $46,717 (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, lab coat laundry service, scrubs
• 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 Requirement
The resident must be licensed to practice as a pharmacist at VA San Diego Healthcare System within 120 days from the first day of their residency program. Noncompliance will result in termination from the program.

Residents must possess pharmacist licensure for at least 2/3rds of our 52-week program and satisfy all requirements to receive a certificate of completion.

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

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.

Expected Outcomes:
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

Purpose: PGY1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and outcomes to develop managed care pharmacist clinicians with diverse patient care, leadership, and analytic skills who are eligible for board certification and postgraduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency training. A managed care residency will provide systematic training of pharmacists to achieve professional competence in the delivery of patient care and managed care pharmacy practice.

Expected Outcomes:
Develop pharmacists who are:
• Eligible for a position in a managed care setting such as:
  • Formulary Management Pharmacist, Pharmacoeconomics Specialist, Data Analytics/Informatics Pharmacist, Prior Authorization Pharmacist, Drug Information Pharmacist etc.
• Skilled in formulary management and development processes:
  • Presenting at Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee/Medication Safety Committee/Pharmacoeconomic Workgroup
  • Drafting guidance documents (conversions, protocols, criteria for use, monographs, etc.)
  • Managing clinical programs, drug utilization reviews, cost-saving initiatives, and quality improvement projects
  • Utilizing business informatics tools (i.e. SQL, R, Power BI, etc.) to drive formulary decisions
  • Reviewing non-formulary and prior authorization consults
Program Structure

**Overview**

Orientation (2 weeks), 10 rotation blocks (~5 weeks each) with concurrent longitudinal experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotations (# of blocks)</th>
<th>PGY1 Pharmacy</th>
<th>PGY1 Managed Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ASHP Code = 92360 NMS Code = 191913</td>
<td>ASHP Code = 92012 NMS Code = 153414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Administration (½)</td>
<td>• Data Analytics (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ambulatory Care (2)</td>
<td>• Formulary Management (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Critical Care (1)</td>
<td>• Leadership/Management (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Formulary Consult (½)</td>
<td>• Procurement (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Infectious Diseases or Emergency Department (1)</td>
<td>• Pharmacoeconomics (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Medicine (2)</td>
<td>• Quality Assurance/Drug Use Evaluation (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Psychiatry (1)</td>
<td>• Medicine (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Electives (2)</td>
<td>• Ambulatory Care (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Longitudinal Experiences</th>
<th>Elective Rotation Options</th>
<th>Clinic Options for Ambulatory Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both Programs</td>
<td>Both Programs</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teaching Certificate</td>
<td>• Informatics</td>
<td>• Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research</td>
<td>• VISN 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY1 Pharmacy only</td>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pharmacy Practice Management</td>
<td>PGY1 Pharmacy Only</td>
<td>• Anticoagulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medication Use Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Chronic Heart Failure / Cardiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Gout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lipid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pain management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Renal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Smoking Cessation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cardiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Emergency Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Geriatrics / Spinal Cord Injury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Infectious Diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Oncology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Nephrology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pain Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Surgery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Transitions of Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Repeat a “required” rotation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
• Completion of 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Requirements for Completion of PGY1 Pharmacy Residency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Staffing in specific rotations (Ambulatory Care, Critical Care, Medicine and Psychiatry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Formal Research Project and Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research Platform Presentation to VISN 22 / Southern California Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows and Preceptors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Formulary Project (i.e., Drug Monograph or Drug Class Review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1+ Monthly Adverse Drug Reaction Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1+ Presentation to the Opioid Safety Initiative (OSI) Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Continuing Education Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Formal participation in medical center committee, i.e., P&amp;T or Medication Safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 – 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 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 7 graduating classes)

PGY2 Residency Training Programs:
VA San Diego Healthcare System
- Ambulatory Care
- Critical Care
- Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership (HSPSAL)
- Infectious Diseases
- Oncology
- Pain Management and Palliative Care
- Pharmacy Informatics
- Psychiatry

Other VA Healthcare System
- Population Health Management and Data Analytics / VA Sierra Pacific Network

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)
- Clinical Pharmacist in Oncology

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
- Clinical Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento, CA
- Clinical Pharmacist at Riverside University Health System – Medical Center in Riverside, 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)
### Former VA San Diego Resident Testimonials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Former Resident</th>
<th>Question/Answer:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Gramer</td>
<td><strong>Why did you choose a career in the VA System?</strong> &quot;The VA is continuously changing and that makes my job as a manager exciting. There is always something new to learn!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY1 (2010 – 2011)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 HSPAL (2011-2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Position at VA SD:</td>
<td>Associate Chief, Ambulatory Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trisha Ung</td>
<td><strong>Why did you continue your career at VA San Diego?</strong> &quot;I stayed here to continue to give back to the veterans who have worked hard to keep us and our country safe. In addition, it was a good opportunity to set up a new program in the ED as I was part of the initial group to have started in the ED.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY1 (2006 – 2007)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Position at VA SD:</td>
<td>Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey Crandall</td>
<td><strong>What makes VA San Diego unique for residency training?</strong> &quot;The working environment at VASD provides an optimal place for trainees to gain clinical experience across various practice settings. We work in an extremely collaborative environment where pharmacists are an integral part of the healthcare team. The other rewarding part about working at VASD is providing care to Veterans who have served our country.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY1 (2011 – 2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Oncology (2012 – 2013)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Position at VA SD:</td>
<td>PGY2 Oncology Residency Program Director and Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Oncology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candance Ellis</td>
<td><strong>Why did you choose a career at VA San Diego?</strong> &quot;I enjoy working in a specialized pharmacy area. VA has provided many good clinical opportunities for pharmacists in managing patients/prescribing; which isn't widely available at other facilities. I also enjoy working with/helping veterans and serving as a preceptor for students/residents.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY1 (1994-1995)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Position at VA SD:</td>
<td>Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serena Cheng</td>
<td><strong>What made you decide to continue your post-residency career at VA San Diego?</strong> &quot;The VA has always been at the forefront of creating opportunities for pharmacist to perform at the top of their license. This means that I am able to provide better patient care, reduce medication errors, and monitor medication outcomes in my clinic as a clinical pharmacist with prescriptive authority.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGY2 Ambulatory Care (2016 – 2017)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Position at VA SD:</td>
<td>PGY2 Pain &amp; Palliative Care Residency Program Coordinator and Pain Pharmacist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# PGY1 Pharmacy Rotation Experiences

## Required

### INTERNAL MEDICINE
The resident will provide pharmaceutical care to medicine and surgery patients with a variety of medical diseases in a general medical teaching environment. The resident will work with multidisciplinary teams including physicians, nurses, dieticians, social workers and both inpatient/outpatient pharmacists/technicians to provide excellent patient care.

During the staffing component of the rotation, the resident will be trained for at least 3 weeks to demonstrate competency to independently staff the unit. The resident will become familiar to staff both inpatient and transitions of care when assigned.

During the rounding component of the rotation, the resident serves as the primary pharmacist on a medicine team and is responsible for order verification and other clinical duties including rounding with the medicine team.

### CRITICAL CARE
The resident will develop and provide specialized pharmaceutical care to critically ill patients for the cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and pulmonary/critical care teams in a teaching environment and provide direct patient care to these patients. The resident will become familiar with evidenced-based critical care therapeutic interventions, monitoring technologies and will participate in a comprehensive pharmaceutical care practice model. Daily responsibilities include attending interdisciplinary rounds, order verification and participating in codes when needed.

### PSYCHIATRY
Residents have the opportunity to manage medications for patients during inpatient rounds and pharmacist-run mental health clinics. Under the guidance of 7 board-certified psychiatric pharmacists, residents will gain experience with facilitating patient interviews, designing treatment plans, and collaborating on a multidisciplinary team. Common conditions managed in this rotation include depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders. The PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency director facilitates weekly “Supervision” sessions, attended by PGY1 residents, PGY2 residents, and students on the psychiatry rotation. During these sessions, trainees can discuss patient cases, practice interviewing techniques, and present journal club articles.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES
PGY1 residents will gain experience on the infectious diseases inpatient service managing various types of infections. Responsibilities and opportunities include following any patients in the hospital that are consulted to the infectious diseases service, participating in daily interdisciplinary rounds, attending microbiology rounds, and attending teaching sessions organized by the UCSD ID department, topic discussions by PGY2 ID residents, and HIV case presentations by rotating pharmacy students.

### ADMINISTRATION
Residents on the admin rotation will become familiar with the medication use system and gain exposure to pharmacy operations within different sections of the department.
# PGY1 Pharmacy Rotation Experiences

## Required

### AMBULATORY CARE

When trainees rotate through the **PACT pharm clinics**, they will have many direct patient care opportunities and experiences with managing patients' chronic diseases including **but not limiting** to diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia. *(See page 9 for list of ambulatory care electives)*

In **diabetes clinic**, we serve as clinician in managing patients with diabetes, hypertension, lipid care as well as related DM disease states. Trainees will be able to assess patient data and formulate a plan for managing, present to the team, and work on effective verbal and written communication skills.

In **lipids clinic**, the resident will have the opportunity to work as an independent practitioner providing patient care and treatment interventions based on ACC/AHA, NLA and VA hyperlipidemia treatment guidelines.

The **Tobacco Cessation Program** has several modalities of care. In general, there are 1:1 on counseling and group format for the treatment groups. One-on-one counseling consists of Pharmacist Managed Telephone Tobacco Cessation Clinic (PMTTCC), VA Video Connect and Weekly co-facilitation chronic care groups like addiction treatment groups.

## Elective Rotations  *(See page 10 for list of elective rotations)*

### ONCOLOGY

During the oncology rotation the PGY1 resident will gain experience in managing cancer patients across various practice settings (outpatient, inpatient, and infusion center). They will provide supportive care to patients receiving anticancer treatment as well as have many opportunities to interact with patients who are on both IV and oral anticancer therapies. The PGY1 resident attends daily inpatient rounds and is the pharmacy liaison between the inpatient oncology team and oncology pharmacy.

### EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

This is an opportunity to learn in a fast-paced environment that provides both inpatient and outpatient experience. In addition, you can work closely with other healthcare providers as they are all here.

### PAIN MANAGEMENT

The Pharmacy Pain Management Clinic is primarily a telephone clinic. As pain management pharmacists we implement, adjust, and monitor medications for pain under a scope of practice. By the end of the rotation, the resident will be able to implement pain medication management strategy and safe practices for patients with chronic pain.
Managed Care Rotations

Required

**FORMULARY MANAGEMENT I**
The Formulary Management I rotation will introduce the resident to the VA National Formulary and how it is managed at VA San Diego. The resident will gain an understanding of several tools utilized to enforce formulary guidelines such as electronic health record (EHR) guidance, drug file management, non-formulary consult adjudication, and local Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) guidance. The resident will develop a basic understanding VA structure, and how the National Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Office works with local sites to ensure formulary criteria are followed. The resident will gain experience adjudicating consults, answering formulary-related questions, presenting in-services to staff, coordinating P&T meetings, and assessing clinical literature and drug utilization to make data-driven formulary decisions. This rotation will provide the foundation knowledge for the Data Analytics, Formulary Management II, and Pharmacoeconomics rotations.

**DATA ANALYTICS**
During this rotation, the resident will learn about database management used within VHA at the facility and national level. In collaboration with the VISN 17 PGY-2 Outcomes & Analytics residency, the resident will learn basic to intermediate skills in information technology, programming (e.g. SQL), and business informatics programs (i.e. PowerBI) to be able to independently query national data from the VA Corporate Data Warehouse. The resident will learn to combine their background clinical knowledge with data querying and analysis principles to drive formulary and administrative decisions. Throughout the residency, the resident will have ample opportunities to develop problem solving and quality assurance skills when querying and validating data while also learning how to effectively communicate data with other health care professionals via written and verbal methods.

**PHARMACOECONOMICS**
This rotation will provide practical experience in pharmacoeconomic principles at VA San Diego and will expand on the principles learned during the Data Analytics rotation. During this rotation, the resident will learn core pharmacoeconomic concepts such as Lost Opportunity Cost (LOC), cost variables, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA), and Budget Impact Analysis (BIA). The resident will learn how to implement and operationalize these concepts in a real-world hospital PBM setting by applying these principles to cost-saving performance measures and monitoring its progress longitudinally. In collaboration with an UCSD professor, the resident will also have didactic trainings on biostatistics and research design, and develop basic to intermediate skills in statistical software analysis (e.g. R, G*Power) to help with the completion of their research project and manuscript.

**PROCUREMENT**
The resident will learn about the procurement practices, budget management, contracting, and the budget revenue cycle at VASD. During this rotation, the resident will be able to apply background clinical knowledge and utilization management skills to assist in well-informed decision-making during drug shortages or backorders. The resident will work with the Formulary and Procurement Group to ensure procurement of the cost-effective products and develop contingency plans for shortages.
## Managed Care Rotations

### Required

**FORMULARY MANAGEMENT II**
The Formulary Management II rotation will build on formulary principles with an emphasis on biologic agents and specialty pharmaceuticals. The rotation will provide the resident with an advanced understanding of the clinical, economic, and operational facets involved in decision-making for specialty medications. The resident will gain an understanding of Specialty Distribution Medications, REMS compliance, and specialty drug ordering processes. During this rotation, the resident will have the opportunity to work on several projects, including a drug use evaluation (DUE), quality assurance/improvement projects, journal club presentation, and updating REMS monitors. The resident will be expected to use data analysis tools and pharmacoeconomic principles to evaluate the organization's medication-use system and provide recommendations to optimize the utilization of specialty medications.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE/DRUG USE EVALUATION**
During this learning experience, the resident will become familiar with and receive a broad overview of health system pharmacy practice and medication safety issues associated with the pharmacy department. Residents will assess the medication use process and identify areas for improvement, demonstrate proficiency in pharmacy compliance with internal/external compliance requirements (e.g. Joint Commission, OIG), and conduct safety assessments, root cause analysis, and/or gap analysis.

### Other Required Rotations

**Medicine, Ambulatory Care and Administration**
See pages 15 and 16
Applicant Qualifications

- Participation in the ASHP Resident Matching Program
- United States citizenship with proof of naturalization if naturalized
- Possess (or in the process of) obtaining a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited School or College of Pharmacy
- Eligible for licensure to practice as a pharmacist at VA San Diego within 120 days from the beginning of the residency program
- Male Trainees: Registration for Selective Service prior to end of 25th birthday or by the time of application submission, whichever comes first.

Application Process

- All application materials must be submitted through Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application (PhORCAS):
  - **PHASE I DEADLINE for ALL Programs** is January 1, 2022 at 11:59 EST
  - **PHASE II DEADLINE for ALL Programs with available positions** is March 21, 2022 at 11:59PM EST
- 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
2021 Residency Showcase
Information

**CSHP Seminar**
- Anaheim, CA
- Virtua Booth
  - Thursday October 14 and Friday October 15, from 12pm to 4pm PST
- In person
  - Saturday November 6, from 9:30am - 2:30pm PST

**ASHP Midyear**
- Tuesday Dec. 7, 12:00pm to 3:00pm PST

**VA Virtual Showcase**
- Thursday December 9, 9:00am to 11:00am PST
  - PGY1 Pharmacy: Link to join
  - PGY1 Managed Care: Link to join

**Open House**
- Monday November 22 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm PST
- Monday December 13 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm PST
- Sign up here for Open House: https://forms.gle/iHj9Y5SQKP1a5R1q8
- Open House Sessions open to prospective applicants of the 2022-2023 residency year
- Sign up here to receive other recruitment information: https://forms.gle/hmhCSngyyc61xmB6
Frequently Asked Questions

How do residents choose their electives?

- PGY1 pharmacy residents have two elective blocks throughout the year. You rank your top elective choices and meet with the RPD, who will arrange your schedule based on your top interests.
- During the required ambulatory care rotation, you can personalize your rotation experience by selecting 4 elective clinics to fit your professional interests.

Where are your former residents practicing now?

- All residents from our previous 2 classes transitioned to PGY2 specialty residency programs. All but one via early commitment to a PGY2 program at VA San Diego.
- See page 13 for additional information. In addition to PGY2 specialty residency training, many of our recent graduates have accepted clinical pharmacist positions at VA San Diego, other VA Healthcare Systems and non-VA healthcare organizations.

What does a typical year look like in terms of rotation schedules?

- **PGY1 Managed care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Rotation</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Managed Care</th>
<th>Ambulatory Care</th>
<th>Managed Care</th>
<th>Ambulatory Care</th>
<th>Managed Care</th>
<th>Managed Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/24 - 7/12</td>
<td>7/17 - 8/18</td>
<td>4.5 weeks</td>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>2/20</td>
<td>5/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21 - 1/10</td>
<td>1/13 - 2/14</td>
<td>1.5 weeks</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>5/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **PGY1 Pharmacy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Electives</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Managed Care</th>
<th>Ambulatory Care</th>
<th>Managed Care</th>
<th>Ambulatory Care</th>
<th>Managed Care</th>
<th>Managed Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/29 - 7/20</td>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>4.5 weeks</td>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>2/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/20 - 8/7</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>4.5 weeks</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/21 - 9/14</td>
<td>Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>4.5 weeks</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/14 - 10/16</td>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>4.5 weeks</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/22 - 12/24</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>4.5 weeks</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>3/7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What teaching opportunities do residents participate in?

- Residents receive a teaching certificate through the San Diego Pharmacy Residency Leaders Program (SDPRL). They are expected to attend workshops with other residents in the San Diego region. Residents will facilitate Tuesday Conferences and will serve as a preceptor for 2 student presentations and develop 1 case discussions.
- Other teaching opportunities include mentoring pharmacy students on clinical rotations and providing in-service education.
Frequently Asked Questions

Does the pharmacy staff have a good relationship with the other health care professionals?

• Yes, this is a teaching hospital, so it is a very encouraging environment to foster clinical growth. The VA adopts progressive practices that allow pharmacists to provide direct patient care and the other members of the health care team see us as a valuable provider.

What makes your program unique?

• We have dedicated and experienced preceptors who are passionate about teaching. Many of them also have a scope-of-practice that allows them to practice autonomously.
• Large residency class: 18 total residents with 7 PGY1 and 11 PGY2.
• We have 10 onsite electives you get to choose from in addition to various off-site electives (subject to change).
• Numerous PGY2 programs with potential for early commit.
• Our staffing model is specific to the rotation you are in (see below).

What are the staffing requirements for pharmacy residents?

• There are dedicated blocks for staffing (ambulatory care, medicine) where residents will gain experience in order verification, outpatient pharmacy operations, IV preparations, and sterile technique.
• No weekend staffing unless required by a specific rotation.
• If available, we offer moonlighting/fee basis appointments where you can staff in the inpatient or outpatient pharmacy after rotation hours/weekends for additional pay.

How are research project ideas determined?

• Residents are responsible for formulating their own research question and will gain skills in creating a study design and methodology, data collection and analysis, and presenting research findings.

Which Electronic Medical Record do you use?

• VASD utilizes a Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) and Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA).
Pharmacy Service (119)
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161
VOICE: (858) 642-3026 or (858) 642-3497
FAX: (858) 642-1608