



Meet Our Preceptors



Robert (Bob) Lana, PharmD received his Bachelors of Science in Chemistry/Biology from PACE University in White Plains, NY in 1981 and Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1986. He then received his PharmD degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Science in Little Rock, AK in 2000. Dr. Lana is certified in Immunization and Medication Therapy Management and has served as an Adjunct Faculty member at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and St. John's University. He has a teaching certificate from the University of Connecticut. He is also an active member of ACCP, ASHP, and the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. Dr. Lana has been the Chief of Pharmacy at the VA HVHCS since 1999 and is responsible for overseeing all clinical, inpatient, and outpatient pharmacy operations at the Castle Point and Montrose campuses as well as VA HVHCS' seven CBOCs (community based outpatient clinics). Prior to this, he held several clinical and supervisory pharmacy roles throughout his career.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Administration

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): Clinical Pharmacy Management/Administration

Fun Fact: Bob is an avid New York Giants fan and holds season tickets.



Karen Park, PharmD, BCGP, BCACP received her PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Albany, NY in 2003 and completed a Primary Care specialty residency at the VA Maryland Health Care System in Baltimore, MD in 2004. Dr. Park is an active member of ASHP and has completed the Geriatrics Scholars Program offered by the VA Geriatric Research, Education & Clinical Center (GRECC). She currently holds board certification in Geriatric Pharmacy and Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. In addition, she holds certifications in Anticoagulation Therapy Management and Immunization. Dr. Park has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2005 and currently manages the anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinics at the Goshen, Port Jervis, and Monticello CBOCs. She also serves as the PGY1 Pharmacy and PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program Director, Anticoagulation Coordinator, and precepts pharmacy students from affiliated colleges of pharmacy.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Orientation, Duty Hours, Pharmacy Education, Project

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Orientation, Duty Hours, Ambulatory Care/CBOC PACT, Teaching & Health Education, Project

Fun Fact: Karen has travelled to every state except Alaska, which is next on her bucket list.



Rita Bodine, PharmD, DPLA received her PharmD degree from St. John's University in Queens, NY and completed a Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Program at Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States in Rockville, MD. Dr. Bodine joined the VA HVHCS pharmacy team in 2006, initially serving both staff pharmacist and clinical pharmacist roles. She has extensive experience in managing anticoagulation, diabetes, clozapine, and performing clinical practice management duties. Since 2010, she has served as the Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Operations. She is responsible for the management and/or oversight of multiple clinical pharmacy programs including, Primary Care/Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT), Anticoagulation, Mental Health, Pain Management, Infectious Disease, and Home Based Primary Care (HBPC). In addition, Rita holds certification in Immunization and has completed the VISN 3 Leadership Development program.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Clinical Pharmacy Management, Pharmacy Administration, Project, Academic Detailing

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Clinical Pharmacy Management/Administration, Project, Academic Detailing

Fun Fact: Rita is an avid Washington Redskins fan.



Kimberly Allison, PharmD, BCACP received her Bachelors of Science in Animal Science from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and her PharmD degree from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York in Buffalo, NY. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at the VA HVHCS in 2010. Dr. Allison is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2010. Her primary responsibilities include managing patients within the PACT/primary care and anticoagulation clinics at the Castle Point and Montrose campuses.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Primary Care/PACT, Advanced Primary Care/PACT

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation

Fun Fact: Kimberly volunteers at the Stony Kill Foundation in Wappingers Falls, NY.



Joy Awoniyi, PharmD received her PharmD degree from Florida A&M University in 2012. She worked as a pharmacy technician at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare in Tallahassee, Florida throughout pharmacy school. After graduating, she completed her PGY1 Pharmacy and PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program in years 2013 and 2014 at the Miami VA Healthcare System. She continued to work as a Clinical Pharmacist in Mental Health at the Miami VA where she was involved with Tobacco Cessation and provided Mental Health medication management to primary care patients. She has been working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since March of 2018. Her roles, thus far, have been mainly with the inpatient acute psychiatric unit, but she also works with the Mental Health service line to monitor quality assurance measures and to help meet psychopharmacologic-related goals. Although Joy has a passion for teaching, she also loves to learn new things or processes that help to advance the pharmacy profession.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Mental Health

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Mental Health

Fun Fact: Joy grew up in Denver, Colorado and her favorite thing to do is sing. Before deciding to go to pharmacy school, she appeared in two operas, multiple high school musicals, shared stages with Ray Charles and Bobby McFerrin and has even sung in the White House and at Carnegie Hall. She spends her free time writing songs, playing (or attempting to play) her key board and leading praise teams and teaching children's choirs at First Seventh-Day Adventist Church of White Plains. She loves live Broadway musicals and travels to the city only to see shows, some that feature friends which she grew up singing in choirs with.



Rosa Bates, PharmD, BCACP, received her PharmD degree from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 2006 and completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at the VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo, NY. Dr. Bates is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and is an active member of ASHP. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2007 and currently manages the anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus as well as the Pine Plains and Poughkeepsie CBOCs.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Primary Care/PACT

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Ambulatory Care/CBOC PACT

Fun Fact: Rosa loves to travel, bake, and spend time with her family and friends.



Maria (Angela) Bottalico, PharmD received her PharmD from the Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy, Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY in 2001. She has been a pharmacist at the VA HVHCS since 2006. She currently manages the anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinic at the Montrose campus. Prior to working at the VA Dr. Bottalico worked in retail pharmacy.

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Anticoagulation

Fun Fact: Angela was born in Spain. She is also the mother of 4 boys.



Eunsuk (Amanda) Chung, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT in 1990 and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency Program at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York, NY immediately following. She later received her PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston, MA in 2010. She has worked at the VA HVHCS since 2006, but has been a pharmacist within the VHA for over 20 years (Coatesville VAMC in Coatesville, PA and Northampton VAMC in Northampton, MA). Dr. Chung is certified in Anticoagulation Therapy Management and Lipid Clinic Preceptorship. She manages anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus and continues to staff in the pharmacy on the weekends.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation, Primary Care/PACT

Fun Fact: Amanda speaks fluent Korean and is active in the Korean American church.



Philip (Phil) Forlenza, PharmD, BCACP received his Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1986 and his PharmD degree from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2014. Phil is Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and Immunization and serves as an active member of the United States Air Force and the Society of Air Force Pharmacists. He has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2010 and holds a variety of responsibilities including the management of non-formulary consults, adverse drug reaction reporting, and anticoagulation management. In 2012, Phil implemented the Pharmacy-managed Pain Management Clinic and works collaboratively with the pain management team. Phil has also had extensive experience as a pharmacist in the private institutional as well as community retail pharmacy settings.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Pain Management

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Pain Management

Fun Fact: Phil has set foot on all 7 continents.



Elaine Kang-Yum, PharmD, BCACP received both her Bachelors of Science and PharmD degree from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1983 and 2010, respectively. Dr. Kang-Yum is a Certified Poison Information Specialist, Board Certified in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, has a teaching certificate from the University of Connecticut, and a Certificate in Medication Therapy Management (MTM). She is the Founder and Director of the Herbwatch Program at Long Island Regional Poison Center and Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Herbs and Dietary Supplement Group through the American Association of Clinical Toxicology (AACT). Dr. Kang-Yum also serves as an active member on the Community Health Research Committee of the Chinese American Medical Society and has been a grant recipient in the past. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2007 and currently specializes in the Home Based Primary Care.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): HBPC

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): HBPC

Fun Fact: Elaine is fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin. She makes cards as a hobby.



Young Lee, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Wyoming in 1990 and PharmD degree from the University of Kansas in 2005. She has worked for the VHA for over 20 years and is currently a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist who specializes in the Home Based Primary Care program at the VA HVHCS.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): HBPC

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): HBPC

Fun Fact: Young has a background and degree in nursing.



Diane Leung-DiLiberto, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in 1994 and her PharmD degree at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2016. Diane has been a Clinical Pharmacist at the VA HVHCS since 2010 and currently works at the Castle Point campus where she is responsible for inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care pharmacy services and patient care. Prior to joining the pharmacy team at the VA HVHCS, Diane served as a pharmacist in the institutional, long-term care, and managed care settings. She has worked extensively in hospital pharmacy, oncology and long-term care pharmacy providing care for patients.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Chemotherapy

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Outpatient Staffing, Inpatient Staffing

Fun Fact: Diane enjoys hiking, bike riding, and rollerblading. In public, her 17 year old daughter calls her Diane, instead of Mama, to save her from embarrassing situations.



Yvonne Ma, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from Long Island University Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Brooklyn, NY in 1977 and later received her PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, NY in 2004. Dr. Ma has been an Infectious Disease Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2004. In addition to managing the pharmacy infectious disease clinic, Dr. Ma also works in the diabetes and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus. Yvonne also has extensive experience as a pharmacist in the private institutional as well as community retail pharmacy settings.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Infectious Disease

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Primary Care/PACT

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Infectious Disease

Fun Fact: There are a total of 7 pharmacists in Yvonne's immediate family, including her husband, daughter, brother-in-law, nieces, and nephews!



Leonard (Lenny) Manzella, PharmD received his Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy in Kingston, RI in 1994 and his PharmD degree from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2014. Lenny has worked at the VA HVHCS since 2004. He's held his current position as the Pharmacy Supervisor at the Montrose campus since 2010 and is responsible for overseeing all inpatient and outpatient pharmacy operations.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Inpatient Staffing, Outpatient Staffing

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): Orientation

Fun Fact: Lenny is an avid New York Jets fan and holds season tickets.



Svitlana (Lana) Stanton, PharmD received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1990 and PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) in Boston, MA in 2010. Dr. Stanton is certified in Anticoagulation Therapy Management, Immunization, and Medication Therapy Management. She has worked at the VA HVHCS since 2008 in both staff pharmacist and clinical pharmacy specialist roles. She's held her current position as the Pharmacy Supervisor at the Castle Point campus since 2015 and is responsible for overseeing all inpatient and outpatient pharmacy operations. Dr. Stanton has also had extensive experience as a pharmacist in the private institution as well as community retail pharmacy settings.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Outpatient Staffing, Inpatient Staffing

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): Orientation

Fun Fact: Lana loves chocolate and enjoys going to the movies.



Kara Yurkovic, PharmD, CDE received her PharmD degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in 2008 and completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency program at the W.G. Bill Hefner VA in Salisbury, NC in 2009. Dr. Yurkovic is a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) and an active member of AADE and APhA. She has been a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA HVHCS since 2010. Now working part-time, she runs a CDE clinic, serves as chairperson for Clinical Pertinence Reviews/Adjudication Committee, and manages anticoagulation clinics. Prior to joining the pharmacy team at the VA HVHCS, she was a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the West Haven VA in West Haven, CT.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Primary Care/PACT, Anticoagulation

Fun Fact: Kara works part-time, only on Fridays. She is a mother of three young children, Rhys, Veya, and Addison.