About the Facility
Since 1951, the Erie VA Medical Center has provided services for Veterans in the northwestern portion of Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and southwestern New York. The Erie VA currently offers Primary Care, Urgent Care, Ambulatory Surgery, Home-Based Primary Care, Community Care, Outpatient Behavioral Health, and houses a Community Living Center, Infusion Clinic, and Domiciliary. We additionally provide care to our expanding rural population at our 5 outpatient clinics that offer primary care and behavioral health services to our tri-state area veterans.

Program Purpose and Description
This residency program is designed to provide a comprehensive, well-rounded experience that will build a solid foundation for the future. 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. The program aims to develop skills in ambulatory care, geriatric, and administrative settings.

The residency includes nine required rotations and six weeks of elective time. The residents will be paired with APPE students for at least one rotation for a precepting/layered learning experience. In addition, residents will be required to participate in a longitudinal project and are responsible for outpatient staffing one weekend per month.
About the Area
Erie is nestled on the coast of beautiful Lake Erie and offers a magnitude of year-round recreational activities ranging from hiking and swimming to downhill skiing, golf, and wineries. Presque Isle has 7 miles of beaches and numerous hiking, biking, and running trails. Housing 5 local colleges and universities and a population of 250,000 in the metropolitan area, Erie gives you the big city amenities while maintaining a small-town atmosphere. Erie is additionally within 2 hours of Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo.
Learning Experiences

Required Rotations
- Orientation
- Inpatient operations
- Outpatient operations
- Anticoagulation Clinic
- PACT (Primary Care)
- Home-Based Primary Care
- Medicine / Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Academic Detailing / Population Management
- Administrative

Elective Rotations (6 weeks)
- Behavioral Health (outpatient and inpatient)
- Pain
- Academia
- Community Living Center
- Any required rotation may be repeated with a focus on learning advanced skills and practice*

*Residents may choose to repeat a required experience as an elective so long as no more than one-third of the twelve-month program is conducted with a specific patient population or practice area.

Longitudinal
- Practice management
- Projects
- Presentations
- Outpatient staffing

Staffing Requirements
Residents are required to function as a pharmacist in the outpatient setting one weekend per month. The outpatient staffing experience includes processing and finishing computerized prescriptions, checking prescriptions, and staffing the counseling room to address veteran outpatient needs.

Primary Areas of Practice

Ambulatory Care
Residents will provide comprehensive medication management utilizing prescriptive authority within multiple ambulatory care practice settings. The Erie VA provides ambulatory care services through our Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT), a unique VA primary-care model which integrates multiple specialties into one cohesive team. The Erie VA PACT clinics provide care to over 17,000 patients spread across the onsite PACTs, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), and our Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) teams. Residents will also be involved in the pharmacist-run anticoagulation and pain clinics. Various opportunities to provide patient and staff education exist in all practice settings.

Inpatient Care
Residents will be an active member of acute care interdisciplinary team and participate in daily bedside rounds. Residents will review medication profiles for appropriateness, evaluate laboratory results as they relate to medication therapy, obtain medication histories, and provide drug information services and patient education. Our acute care unit consists of 7 beds, and commonly encountered disease states include COPD, pneumonia, skin and soft tissue infections, CHF, and alcohol detoxification. Acute care rotation will also have a component of antimicrobial stewardship for inpatient and outpatient. Opportunities are available for elective time in the nursing home setting.
Angela Tsang, Pharm.D.
Bachelors in Pharmaceutical Sciences | University of Pittsburgh
Doctor of Pharmacy | University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy
Pharmacy Intern | AHN Jefferson Hospital
Pharmacy Resident | Erie VA Medical Center

Interests
Currently, my interests include anticoagulation and diabetes management, but I also love learning and would like to expand into the world of thyroid disorders and academia. In my free time, I like to stay active with Spin classes, play tennis with my friends, or catch up on books and movies. I am also a huge fan of escape rooms (my current record is 3/3 wins)!

What drew you to the Erie VA initially?
I was drawn to the Erie VA residency program because the rotations allowed me to directly manage a wide variety of chronic disease states with long-term follow up. I also liked that it was a smaller practice site that prioritized patient care, meaning every project I was given would have a direct and positive impact on our veteran patients.

What do you like most about the program?
I appreciate that my RPD and preceptors really care for my well-being. I never feel worried about asking for help and they are always attentive, willing to listen, and highly value feedback. On top of that, the practice model and mission of the program perfectly align with my own personal goals. This makes it so easy to love my job by having fun and enjoying my workday.

Natalie Gordon, Pharm.D.
Bachelors in Science | Towson University
Doctor of Pharmacy | Notre Dame of Maryland University

Interests
Professionally, I am interested in ambulatory care, chronic disease state management, geriatrics, and teaching or precepting. In my personal life, I enjoy traveling, especially by taking road trips; I love visiting National Parks and experiencing new food and coffee all over the world. On a simpler note, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends or watching tv shows such as Survivor or The Bachelor.

What drew you to the Erie VA initially?
I initially was attracted to this program for the abundant experiences in ambulatory care and direct therapy management. I was also drawn to the small, family-like nature of the pharmacy staff!

What do you like most about the program?
Aside from the program aligning with my professional interests, I appreciate that the Erie VA emphasizes having a good work-life balance; this does not just apply to pharmacy residents, but all other pharmacy staff. Additionally, I love having the opportunity to build long-term relationships with the patients and have a direct impact on the health of the veteran population.
Benefits

- Competitive stipend
- 13 days each of paid vacation and sick leave
- 6 paid federal holidays
- Federal health benefits and life insurance available
- Access to the VA health care system for opportunities for continuing education and networking nationwide
- Free parking

Qualifications

- U.S. Citizenship is required for federal employment
- Doctor of Pharmacy or Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited school of pharmacy
- Eligible for licensure in any U.S. state or territory

Contact Information
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814-860-2496 or 800-274-8387, ext. 2496

Application Process

- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of intent to include the following information:
  » Why do you want to do a residency at the Erie VA?
  » What are your areas of clinical interest?
  » What are your 5 year career goals?
  » Describe how your APPE and work experience qualify you for this program.
  » Include a specific example of how you’ve impacted patient care.
- Three letters of recommendations PhORCAS including
- Official pharmacy school academic transcript
- All application materials must be submitted through PhORCAS by January 1st, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Diversity Statement

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to ensuring Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), promoting workforce diversity and workplace inclusion in service to our nation’s Veterans.

The VA enforces all applicable Federal EEO laws, regulations, executive orders, and management directives to ensure equal opportunity in the workplace for all VA employees.

The Erie VA Medical Center strives to grow a diverse, high-performing workforce that reflects our society and values all aspects of our human diversity.

We endeavor to create opportunities that promote the personal and professional growth of the workforce.

We work diligently to cultivate an inclusive environment and engaged workforce that feels empowered and safe in expressing ideas aimed at promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Promoting positive, inclusive working relationships and an appreciation for our unique difference unites us in a common goal: to provide a diverse educational environment that fosters success of our residents while providing culturally competent care for our Veterans.