PGY1
Pharmacy Residency Program

VA
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Erie VA Medical Center

ashp®
Accredited
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 twelve weeks of elective time to customize the experience to the interests of the resident. In addition, residents will be required to participate in a longitudinal projects 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

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.

**Elective Rotations (12 weeks)**
- Behavioral Health (outpatient and inpatient)
- Academic Detailing
- 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 Preceptors

- Kylee Gross
  Pharm.D., MSMEd
  PACT CPS

- Yi Seul Kim
  Pharm.D.
  PACT CPS

- Cassandra Mozes
  Pharm.D.
  PACT CPS

- Justyna Wasielewski
  Pharm.D., MSMEd
  PACT CPS

- Marina Lemut
  Pharm.D.
  Pain CPS

- Sara Vacca
  Pharm.D., MBA
  HBPC CPS

- Terry (TJ) Strong
  Pharm.D.
  Anticoagulation CPS

- Jamie Haas
  Pharm.D.
  Anticoagulation CPS

- Amy Newell
  Pharm.D.
  HBPC CPS
  Residency Program Director
Alexa Haddon, Pharm.D.
Doctor of Pharmacy | Duquesne University School of Pharmacy
Pharmaceutical Intern | UPMC Horizon Hospital

Interests
I am passionate about diabetes management and education, and I am also interested in anticoagulation, COPD, and HTN management, and the possibility of precepting younger students. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, watching football and hockey, binging Marvel movies and TV shows, and playing with my golden retrievers Brody and Lager.

What drew you to the Erie VA initially?
During my interview, I was able to gain perspective on the culture of the clinical pharmacy specialists. I immediately knew I wanted to join this tight-knit, welcoming group.

What do you like most about the program?
My favorite part of this program is the people. All of the physicians, nurses, and hospital staff that I have encountered have been kind, attentive, and willing to answer my questions. I look forward to work each day. The program is also very flexible and accommodates my needs and interests in each rotation. The preceptors tailor each rotation to your career goals and aspirations. They are enthusiastic about teaching and ensure that you benefit from each experience.

Samantha Adams, Pharm.D.
Bachelor in Science | Westminster College
Doctor of Pharmacy and Masters of Health Services Administration | LECOM
Pharmaceutical Intern | Erie VA Medical Center
Rite Aid | 4 years

Interests
My professional interests include ambulatory care, long-term care, and behavioral health. In my personal life, I live on a grain farm and also raise chickens, beef, pigs, and show rabbits. Although farming consumes most of my extra time, I also enjoy reading, four-wheeling, and spending time with my family.

What drew you to the Erie VA initially?
As a volunteer, I was impressed with the helpful and down-to-earth personalities of each pharmacy team member. I have always wanted to make an impact in the pharmacy sector, and I believe helping Veterans is a great way to accomplish that goal.

What do you like most about the program?
I chose the Erie VA for the array of learning opportunities in ambulatory care, and enjoyed the experience because of the positive attitude of the team. What I love most about the Erie VA is the patient-centered approach to care. The common goal of each team member is to put patients first. Additionally, I have come to love the positive, upbeat attitude of the staff.

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
Amy Newell, Pharm.D.
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
Pharmacy Residency Program Director
Amy.Newell@va.gov
814-860-2496 or 800-274-8387, ext. 2496

What do you like most about the program?
I chose the Erie VA for the array of learning opportunities in ambulatory care, and enjoyed the experience because of the positive attitude of the team. What I love most about the Erie VA is the patient-centered approach to care. The common goal of each team member is to put patients first. Additionally, I have come to love the positive, upbeat attitude of the staff.

What drew you to the Erie VA initially?
As a volunteer, I was impressed with the helpful and down-to-earth personalities of each pharmacy team member. I have always wanted to make an impact in the pharmacy sector, and I believe helping Veterans is a great way to accomplish that goal.

What do you like most about the program?
I chose the Erie VA for the array of learning opportunities in ambulatory care, and enjoyed the experience because of the positive attitude of the team. What I love most about the Erie VA is the patient-centered approach to care. The common goal of each team member is to put patients first. Additionally, I have come to love the positive, upbeat attitude of the staff.

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

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.

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.

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.