

# Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2) Cardiology Pharmacy Residency Program

VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System



## Program Overview

The VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) is an integrated healthcare system comprised of two medical centers (the Nashville Campus in Nashville, TN, and the Alvin C. York Campus in Murfreesboro, TN) and more than 10 community based outpatient clinics located in Tennessee and Kentucky.



TVHS provides primary care, secondary care, specialized tertiary care, transplant services, and a full range of extended care and mental health services. The facility operates 128 medicine, 51 surgery, 4 neurology, and 238 community living center beds. Each year nearly 9,500 episodes of care are provided in the hospital and the community living centers and more than 1,100,000 outpatient visits are made.

The Nashville Campus is the only VHA facility in the nation that supports all solid organ transplant programs, including cardiac transplant. The Nashville Campus is primarily affiliated with Vanderbilt University School of Medicine with fellowship programs in cardiology and cardiac surgery.

The Cardiology Pharmacy PGY2 Residency is a one-year specialty program that offers clinical experiences in acute care cardiology (cardiology critical care [CCU], surgical intensive care [SICU] and surgical step-down [SSU], advanced heart failure, cardiac transplant, general cardiology, and outpatient experiences in anticoagulation and cardiovascular pharmacotherapy clinic. Pharmacists completing this program will have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to provide cardiovascular pharmacotherapy services as a member of the interprofessional team and independently. A focus of the residency is advanced understanding of cardiology guidelines, development of complex decision making skills in a fast paced environment, literature evaluation abilities, and a knowledge base that is transferable across practice areas and based on clinical evidence. The resident will develop personal preceptor skills through both didactic and experiential teaching experiences.

## Requirements For Consideration:

- Enrolled in or successful completion of a ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency
- Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited School of Pharmacy
- U.S. citizenship for Federal employment
- Pharmacy licensure in any state.
- Licensure in the state of TN if planning to request one non-VA elective rotation

## Application Materials:

- Letter of intent (LOI)
  - Curriculum vitae (CV)
  - Three (3) letters of recommendation (LOR)
  - Official pharmacy school transcript
  - OF 306 (Declaration for Federal Employment)
- Qualified applicants will be offered a formal interview date no later than February 15th.

## Early Commitment:

A resident currently participating in the PGY1 VATVHS residency may be eligible for consideration for the PGY2 residency in Cardiology through the early commitment process. Interested residents should submit 3 LOR, a LOI, and participate in an interview with the PGY2 residency program director and/or recruitment team. Letters should identify what the resident hopes to accomplish through the PGY2 residency and be hand delivered to the PGY2 and PGY1 residency directors by November 17. Selected applicant will be notified no later than December 10.

## External Applicants:

### Interview Notification:

Candidates will be notified of interview status no later than February 15

### Match Rules:

- This residency site agrees that no person at this site will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any residency applicant.

### Appointment of applicants

- Appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of a physical exam, including negative drug test. Applicants must meet requirements for federal employment.

## Inpatient and Outpatient Core Experiences:

- Medical Critical Care (CCU emphasis)
- SICU/SSU
- Acute Medicine (CV Focus)
- Advanced Heart Failure (AHF)/ Cardiac Transplant
- General Cardiology Inpatient Consult Service
- Anticoagulation Clinic
- Cardiovascular (CV) Pharmacotherapy Clinic

Greater than 50% of the residency will be spent providing inpatient cardiovascular (CV) and related services. The resident will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring pharmacotherapy for the purpose of identifying, preventing and resolving drug related problems with the interprofessional team.



In the MCCU/PCU, the resident will work directly with the critical care team comprised of medical interns, residents, a cardiology/pulmonary fellow and an attending cardiologist/intensivist to provide comprehensive services to a 10 bed ICU and 3 bed PCU. In the SICU/SSU, the resident will work directly with the surgical intensive care team comprised of an intensivist, anesthesia residents, and surgical residents and fellows. On the acute medicine service, the resident will work with an internal medicine team to provide comprehensive services (1/3 of acute medicine patients are admitted for a CV diagnosis and CV diseases are remarkably prevalent amongst veterans with ambulatory sensitive conditions such as COPD). On the AHF/Cardiac transplant and general cardiology consult service, the resident will work with a small consulting team rendering recommendations to the primary medical teams. The pharmacy resident will serve as the drug therapy specialist as well as a pharmacy educator, actively participating in team meetings and bedside rounds. Interventions will be recorded in the medical record.

As much as 25% of the residency will be spent providing outpatient CV services through the core and longitudinal experiences. Outpatient clinic responsibilities will include ordering of lab tests, consults, procedures, and medications as well as assuring timely follow-up either in clinic or by telephone. All interventions will be recorded in the medical record. The resident will be supervised by a clinical pharmacy specialist preceptor and/or physician/nurse practitioner preceptor.

### Anticoagulation Clinic

The resident will provide therapeutic drug monitoring and management (1/2 day per week for 8-12 weeks) for patients enrolled in pharmacy managed anticoagulation clinics with longitudinal service to the Anticoagulation Task Force

### CV Pharmacotherapy Clinic

The resident will be responsible for identifying, preventing and resolving drug related problems at the transition to home for patients with a recent heart failure emergency room visit or hospital admission along with Cardiology CPS.

## Elective Experiences:

Rotations under the supervision of pharmacists or other members of the interprofessional team include emergency department or any rotation offered in the PGY1 curriculum, such as academic detailing, or repeating any core rotation, bone marrow transplant,\* or arrhythmia inpatient and outpatient services.\*

\*These are possible and are to be developed based upon the individual resident's interests, goals, and selected career path.

## Layered Learning:

The PGY2 residency is affiliated with a large PGY1 pharmacy residency program and multiple colleges of pharmacy. The pharmacy team includes an attending pharmacist responsible for all aspects of the patient-centered care and a combination of residents (PGY1 and/or PGY2) and student(s) functioning as extenders who provide expanded clinical patient care services. No member of the pharmacy team is a passive observer. The education sessions with all learners promote active learning through topic discussions pertaining directly to patients' disease states and medications, rather than a general topic discussion that may not relate to a patient on the service. The PGY2 resident will co-precept pharmacy students and PGY1 residents.

## Other Longitudinal Program Requirements:

### Scholarly Activities

- Heart failure interprofessional journal club
- Journal peer review
- Precepting (layered learning)

### Resident Project/Research

#### Drug information

- TVHS Cardiology Pharmacy Newsletter and interim bulletins

#### Leadership

- Committee participation

#### Optional

- Teaching certificate

### Number of positions: 1

**Deadline for application:** January 1

**Residency start date:** June 13, 2016

**Estimated stipend:** ~\$44,500

**Fringe benefits:** Health and life insurance, 10 paid Federal holidays, 13 accrued vacation/annual leave days, 13 accrued sick days, professional leave and travel funds to attend meetings and educational conferences, dual appointment available for additional reimbursement.

### Contact Information:

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