

PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACY PRACTICE SPECIALTY RESIDENCY
SOUTH TEXAS VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Psychiatric Pharmacy Practice Residency at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, in conjunction with The University of Texas College of Pharmacy, is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists since 2005. This comprehensive, post-doctoral clinical pharmacy training program is designed to produce a clinician with the skills necessary to provide comprehensive pharmaceutical care to psychiatric patients in a variety of practice settings, including acute inpatient units, primary care clinics, and long-term care. Other intended outcomes for residents completing this program include: (1) the ability to function both as an independent practitioner (under protocol) and as a member of multidisciplinary treatment teams providing care to psychiatric patients; (2) to serve as an educator for mentally ill patients, family members, pharmacy students, and health care providers; (3) to exhibit leadership and management skills in a professional manner; (4) to display characteristics of professional and personal self-growth as a psychiatric health care practitioner; (5) and to demonstrate the ability to proactively identify and meet opportunities available in the provision of pharmaceutical care to the psychiatric population.

The Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital is a 350-bed facility a 25-bed inpatient male psychiatric unit, an 8-bed inpatient female psychiatric unit, and an 8-bed inpatient geropsychiatric unit, a substance abuse treatment facility, a psychiatric emergency intake center, and a general clinical research unit. The facility is located in northwest San Antonio and provides primary, secondary, and tertiary health care in medicine, psychiatry, surgery, and rehabilitation medicine to serve the health care needs of area veterans. The Pharmacy Service offers 24-hour coverage, decentralized unit-dose drug distribution, complete IV-admixture program, and clinical services.

The resident will actively participate in the activities of the inpatient psychiatric services (Dr. Nicole Cupples), PRIME Psychiatry Interdisciplinary Team (Dr. Cynthia Gutierrez), the Frank Tejada Outpatient Clinic Mental Health Services (Dr. Rosana Oliveira), Audie L Murphy Mental Health (Drs. Ilona Shishko and Jana Shults), Shavano Park Outpatient Mental Health (Dr. Matthew Stanley), Tele-Mental Health (Dr. Mina Mehvar), Primary Care Behavioral (Drs. Marie-Therese Jackson, Joshua King, Chinelo Oji, and Holly Winkler), Pain Medicine (Dr. Shuang Ouyang) and Substance Abuse/Domiciliary (Dr. Troy Moore) . The PRIME team provides both medical and psychiatric care, in addition to social work services, to approximately 250 patients who require frequent outpatient contact in order to decrease frequency of hospitalizations. The resident attends weekly PRIME meetings and provides inservices to the team as needed. The Mental Health Outpatient Service at the Frank Tejada Outpatient Clinic is located 2 miles from the Audie L. Murphy Hospital. The clinic currently provides care to over 8000 patients with a variety of ailments, ranging from depression and post traumatic stress disorder to thought disorders including schizophrenia. The clinic staff is comprised of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, a clinical pharmacy specialist, and medical students and residents. The resident will participate in a longitudinal ½ day clinic at either Mental Health Outpatient Services or PRIME Psychiatry for the duration of the residency.

Current outpatient psychiatry clinics held by Clinical Pharmacy include:

- **PRIME Smoking Cessation Clinic** - Medication management for all Veterans who wish to discontinue use of tobacco products. Patients' regimens are tailored to their specific needs and are seen frequently to assess relapse and medication tolerance.
- **Primary Care Behavioral Health** - Medication management clinic designed to maintain patients in primary care rather than referral to mental health. Patients receive psychotherapy from psychologists while medication management is performed by the clinical pharmacist or primary care physician. Patient diagnoses include depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- **Psychiatry Pharmacotherapy Clinic (Mental Health Outpatient Services)** - Allows for longitudinal, routine medication management of patients with mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, post traumatic stress disorder and other anxiety disorders. Patients with complicated depression are frequently referred to this clinic by Primary Care.
- **Clozapine Clinic** - Medication management for patients treated with clozapine. Complete blood count with differential and patient status is monitored weekly, biweekly, or monthly, dependent on the specific patient.

WBC reporting for all of South Texas clozapine patients is completed here. Likewise, all administrative duties related to clozapine are performed in this clinic.

- **PRIME Psychiatry Pharmacotherapy Clinic** - Clinic designed to provide psychiatric care as well as medical care for patients who require frequent outpatient contact in order to decrease frequency of hospitalizations. The PRIME Team meets for 2 hours weekly to review patients. The team consists of various medical professionals including psychiatrists, psychiatry medical residents, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, and psychologists as well as a psychiatric pharmacist who is present to answer medication-related questions. Weekly in-services on a variety of topics follow the meeting. The PharmD clinic sees patients for clozapine monitoring, long-acting antipsychotic medication followup, and in lieu of psychiatry residents/staff when patient's doctor is not available.

Additional required activities include participation on both the Acute Psychiatric Services Unit and the Adolescent Unit at the San Antonio State Hospital, as well as an intense Neurology rotation split between University Hospital and the VA. Various electives, including adolescent psychiatry, developmental disabilities (Dr. Stephen R. Saklad), geriatric psychiatry/extended care (Dr. Catherine Hall), forensic psychiatry, and primary care (Dr. Tera Moore, Dr. Carrie Rogers) are available and will be chosen based on the resident's interests. The resident will participate in journal club and case discussion sessions with fellow residents, advanced psychopharmacology lectures and group discussions, Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Pharmacotherapy Conference, Pharmacotherapy Seminars, Psychiatric Pharmacy Didactic/Review, and other programs as deemed appropriate. Completion of a residency project is required, as is a poster presentation at the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists annual meeting and at The University of Texas Celebrating Research.

The resident is an employee of The Department of Veterans Affairs, directly responsible to the Chief of Pharmacy Service. Daily guidance and supervision will be provided by the resident's program director, Dr. Troy A. Moore. An affiliated appointment as a Clinical Instructor at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy is available.

Application process includes:

- a. Letter of Intent
- b. completion and submission of application to the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PHORCAS) and academic transcripts,
- c. submission of letters of recommendation (#3), and
- d. completion of an on-site interview.

Selection of residency candidates is based on careful evaluation of the following criteria:

- a. completion of a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (required),
- b. completion of an ASHP accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency (required),
- c. prior professional experience,
- d. presentation skills
- e. assessment of personal maturity, and
- f. candidate's statement of career goals and professional aspirations.

STIPEND:

Competitive salary with sick leave, annual leave, and administrative leave available. Health insurance is available.

CONTACT:

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