Pharmacy Residency Program (PGY1)

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The Healthcare System

The Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS) has provided comprehensive, world class health care to Veterans for over eighty years. SAVAHCS is recognized for achieving and sustaining high levels of performance and service to our Veterans and is the recipient of the 2012 Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award that is based on nationally recognized criteria of organizational excellence. SAVAHCS is an integrated Veteran’s Affairs health care system consisting of an over 250 bed hospital, multiple primary care and specialty clinics, two urban community outpatient clinics, and five community outpatient clinics in Tucson’s outlying areas serving 50,000 Veterans annually.

A wide range of inpatient and primary care services are provided in the medical center including acute care medicine, primary care, surgery, neurology, infectious diseases, nephrology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, pulmonary, cardiology, oncology, mental health, and emergency medicine.

The 90-bed Community Living Center (CLC), located on the Tucson campus, provides advanced rehabilitation and transitional care services, including hospice, palliative care, interim care, medical rehabilitation, neurogeriatrics, geropsychiatric, and respite care.


SAVAHCS also offers Home Based Primary Care (HBPC), a comprehensive primary care in-home program provided by a physician-supervised interdisciplinary service, including heavy involvement by Pharmacy Services, for both long-term chronically ill Veterans and those needing short term home care services.

The SAVAHCS Pharmacy Service is a highly integrated, progressive clinical practice model that encompasses approximately 115 pharmacy staff members, over 30 Clinical Pharmacy Specialists in a variety of practice settings. Additionally, the Pharmacy Service is a technology and patient safety leader assisted by the extensive use of robotics and automation.

As a principal academic affiliate for the University of Arizona’s (U of A) Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health and Pharmacy, over 700 physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other health care professionals receive training at SAVAHCS annually. Additionally, the Pharmacy Service line also trains pharmacy students from other schools of pharmacy around the country.

Life in Tucson

Imagine living in Tucson, a city of 1 million people, with a large university that still feels like your hometown. Enjoy warm, sunny weather (approximately 320 days a year) and outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, swimming, golf, tennis, mountain climbing and skiing in your own backyard (yes, skiing in Arizona!). The University of Arizona offers an assortment of sports, music, theater, and dance groups that tour the United States and perform on campus. Tucson is situated two hours southeast of the Phoenix/Scottsdale metropolitan area. Close enough to enjoy all the sports, concerts, theatre and shopping opportunities without the congestion! Click here to learn more about Tucson starting on page 64:

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Residency Goals and Objectives

The purpose of the SAVAHCS PGY1 pharmacy residency program is to build on the 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.

Program Description

The 12-month residency program accepts up to eight PGY1 residents and is designed to provide ongoing clinical pharmacy activities while promoting the individual resident’s needs. The program provides clinical experience with a broad range of patients and disease states in various rotation settings, while working collegially with physicians and nurse practitioners. During the year, each resident gives presentations, such as patient management conferences, in-services to nurses and physicians, journal club, and an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) accredited one hour continuing education presentation. A research project is required; each resident presents a poster outlining research hypothesis & methods and the completed project at a regional meeting.

Residency Preceptors

All pharmacists on staff provide direct patient care and assist in the education of the pharmacy residents. Clinical pharmacy specialists practice in the following areas: primary care, acute care medicine, surgery, rehabilitation, interim care, geriatrics, cardiology, critical care, oncology, mental health, pain, gastroenterology, endocrinology, infectious diseases, nephrology, hospice, and emergency medicine. Preceptors place a high value on the residents and are always accessible.
## Monthly Experiential Sample Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month experiences</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Acute Care Medicine (2 months)</th>
<th>Geri</th>
<th>Primary Care</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Research &amp; CE</th>
<th>Acute Care Medicine (2 months)</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Critical Care</th>
<th>Primary Care</th>
<th>Elective</th>
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### Longitudinal experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12 months</th>
<th>Anticoagulation Clinic (10 patients)</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>Primary Care Longitudinal Clinic (1/2 day weekly)</td>
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<td>12 months</td>
<td>ADR monthly report</td>
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<td>12 months</td>
<td>Research project</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>Management Conference (8) Journal Club (6)</td>
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### Extended Experiences

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<tr>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>CE Presentation</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>Provider Newsletter (agenda &amp; monograph or CFU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Patient Newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>MUE (2-3 months)</td>
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<tr>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>Shadow Managers</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Administrative Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Quarterly ADR Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>QA Project</td>
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### Elective Opportunities

- Emergency Department
- Mental Health
- Infectious Disease
- Informatics
- Oncology
- Medical Subspecialty Clinic
- Administrative
- Intake (New Patient)
- Academia
- Inpatient
- Surgery

### Required Experiences

- Primary Care one month x 2 (total of 2 months)
- Acute Care Medicine two months x 2 (total of 4 months)
- Critical Care one month
- Geriatrics one month (choice between Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) or Inpatient Geri

Residents also provide weekend inpatient pharmacist coverage. Generally, this is one weekend each month. Staffing consists of two residents working together to perform the clinical and distributive functions of a pharmacist.

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Brief Description of Core Rotation Sites

Primary care
Primary Care Clinics are multidisciplinary teams in a PACT model (Patient Aligned Care Team) that provide general internal medicine care to Veteran patients. PACT is also widely known as the medical home model, where the PACT team is working in partnership with the Veteran to deliver care in diverse methods. The pharmacy practice model for the clinics is an integrated approach and the primary care team pharmacists manage the general internal medicine needs of patients on their assigned PACT team. The PACT pharmacists have a scope of practice with prescribing privileges allowing independent management of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, anti-coagulation, smoking cessation, COPD, and GERD. The pharmacists are also responsible for assisting in the development, implementation, and monitoring of drug therapy plans for clinic patients. After patients are seen by a prescriber in the clinic, the Pharmacists ensure that patients are receiving appropriate drug therapy by completing patient interviews, performing general medication counseling, and reviewing computerized medical records. The pharmacists are also responsible for conducting medication reconciliations, completing non-formulary medication requests, processing pending medication orders, and providing answers to drug information questions.

Acute Care Medicine
The internal medicine teams are staffed by an attending physician, a second or third year medical resident, medical interns, and medical students. Additionally the pharmacy resident, student and preceptor are incorporated in the internal medicine team. The resident is assigned to one of the teaching medicine teams at the start of the two-month experience. During the first acute care medicine rotation, the preceptor accompanies the pharmacy resident to directly evaluate the resident’s interactions with the team. During the second acute care medicine rotation, the pharmacy resident may be assigned to their own medicine team based on knowledge base, attitude and work ethic; however, the pharmacy resident continues to report to the preceptor. The residents and preceptors work with the decentralized pharmacists on the medicine floors to provide pharmaceutical care to the patients admitted, and are responsible for patient-specific drug therapy issues for the patients assigned to the team. The majority of the time there is an APPE pharmacy student on the team and the resident serves as a co-preceptor.

Critical care
The critical care pharmacist and pharmacy resident work with the critical care medicine (CCM) team to review cases and make pharmacy recommendation for patients in the critical care unit. The primary responsibility for the pharmacy resident is the patients being followed by the CCM team. The patients in the surgical critical care area are reviewed for medication concerns as well. In addition to making pharmaceutical recommendations, the pharmacy resident evaluates and interviews patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and documents interactions and recommendations in pharmacy progress notes. The pharmacy resident attends teaching management rounds providing pharmacy input for patients, and performs antimicrobial stewardship for the patients admitted to the ICU. The pharmacy resident serves as co-preceptor for pharmacy students on rotation for critical care.

Geriatrics
The geriatrics rotation is offered either in the inpatient setting in the Community Living Center (CLC) or in the outpatient setting with Home Based Primary Care (HBPC). The resident may choose one or the other for a required geriatric rotation during the residency. The pharmacists are active members of the interdisciplinary teams, which is key for providing optimal care for this patient population. The pharmacy resident gains valuable clinical experience managing this complex patient population while working closely with members of all the other health care disciplines.

Geriatrics, inpatient: Community Living Center (CLC)
The CLC serves the Veteran population with a skilled nursing facility that provides short-term care (sub-acute & rehabilitation) for patients who require continued medication adjustments and reconditioning. Also included is the geripsychiatry unit, as well as several specialized ambulatory care clinics (Spinal Cord Injury clinic, Polytrauma clinic, and Geriatrics clinic).

Geriatrics, ambulatory: Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)
The Home Based Primary Care team is an interdisciplinary primary care team serving patients that are primarily home-bound in Southern Arizona. The HBPC team cares for patients in their own homes or care homes with goals of reducing hospitalizations, keeping patients functioning safely at home, assessing and treating acute conditions, improving the management of chronic conditions, and improving quality of life.
Longitudinal Administrative Activities

The mission of the pharmacy administration experience is to provide the resident with the opportunity to observe and participate in the administration of the pharmacy service and develop leadership skills. Drug information and drug policy development activities occur throughout the residency. Each pharmacy resident develops or evaluates a criteria for use, develops and completes a medication use evaluation, MUE, and presents these to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. The pharmacy residents participate in adverse drug reaction reporting, and pharmacy quality improvement programs throughout the program. The residents take an active role for developing and implementing changes based on MUEs or other quality management projects. The pharmacy resident gains experience in writing, editing, and publishing a drug therapy and both provider and patient pharmacy newsletter. Residents participate in the leadership conference series discussing topics such as: implementing new clinical services, professional involvement, quality management, clinical pertinence and credentialing for pharmacists, human resources, health system metrics, budget and inventory management, and integrating work and life. All of these experiences are longitudinal to provide residents experience in managing a practice.

Longitudinal Experiential Activities

Longitudinal experiences throughout the residency include primary longitudinal clinic (1/2 day weekly) and anticoagulation. Residents staff an average of one weekend each month. Staffing consists of two residents working together to perform the clinical and distributive functions in the IV room and the satellite pharmacy located on the ICU floor.

Educational Experience Activities

The pharmacy resident has many opportunities for providing educational presentations. Longitudinal educational activities include pharmacy resident presented:

- Disease state and/or medication management topic presentations (6-8 presentations)
- Journal clubs (5-6 presentations)
- ACPE-accredited continuing education presentations (one 1 hour ACPE presentation)

The pharmacy resident has the opportunity to attend SAVAHCS management conferences (grand rounds) with members of the healthcare team.

The pharmacy resident has opportunities to co-precept and teach pharmacy students. Over 50 APPE pharmacy students rotate through SAVAHCS in a year! Precepting activities and opportunities include:

- Precepting pharmacy students while on rotations (acute care medicine, primary care)
- Proctoring University of Arizona College of Pharmacy case discussions
- Proctoring University of Arizona College of Pharmacy OSCE cases
- Academia elective opportunity

Elective Opportunities

Residents may choose three electives during the year. The elective time is to tailor specific interests of the resident within the training program. Common electives are surgery, oncology, pain management, specialty primary care, cardiology, critical care, mental health, infectious disease, emergency medicine, primary care, acute care medicine, academia (e.g. with the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy), and administration elective. Off-site opportunities are also available for those licensed in the state of Arizona.
Research
A completed research project is required during the residency program. The resident presents his or her research at a regional meeting (Southwestern States), as well as submits a written finalized report before the conclusion of the residency program in a format suitable for publication. A list of recently completed research projects completed by pharmacy residents is outlined below:

2017 – 2018
- Pharmacist Intervention in Heart Failure Clinic
- Descriptive Study of Insulin Use in Veterans with A1c ≤ 6.5%
- Pharmacotherapeutic Options for Statin Intolerant Veterans
- Safety and Effectiveness of DOACs in the Obese Veteran Population
- Clinical Significance of Weight-Based Cefazolin Dosing in Obese Patients for Surgical-Site Infection (SSI) Antimicrobial Prophylaxis
- Resuscitation in Sepsis and Heart Failure
- Statins for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in veterans 75 and older
- Association of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) with Clostridium difficile – Associated Disease (CDAD) at the Southern Arizona Veteran Affairs Health Care Center (SAVAHCS)

2016 – 2017
- Perioperative Bridging in Atrial Fibrillation Subjects on Concomitant Warfarin Therapy
- Therapy Sequencing and its Impact on Clinical Outcomes in Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer
- ASAP Trial: Assessing Safety of dual Alpha-blockers in PTSD
- Evaluation of the effectiveness and safety of pharmacological intervention versus no pharmacological intervention for the treatment of delirium in hospitalized Veterans
- Safety and Effectiveness of Very Low LDL in a Veteran Population
- Twice Daily Lisinopril in Chronic Kidney Disease (TDL in CKD Trial)
- Clinical Characteristics of Clostridium difficile-Associated Diarrhea (CDAD) Among the Veteran Population at SAVAHCS
- Morphine use in patients with STEMI and NSTEMI undergoing percutaneous coronary interventions
- Utilization of Oral Targeted Therapies among Veterans with Stage IV or Recurrent Renal Cell Carcinoma

2015 – 2016
- Beta-Blocker Review of Agents In Veterans with Reduced Ejection Fraction
- Incidence of venous thromboembolism in oncology patients following major surgery
- Cardiovascular outcomes related to testosterone supplementation in a male Veteran population (CORTS)
- Retrospective review of ticagrelor versus clopidogrel after acute coronary syndromes in a Veteran population
- A Safety Profile of Allopurinol in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease: A Veterans Affairs Perspective
- Non-dihydropyridine calcium channel blocker use in stable heart failure patients
- Hospitalization Risk with Concomitant Benzodiazepine or Opioid Use in Veterans with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- Anticholinergic medication use and the risk of community-acquired pneumonia in an older Veteran population
- Medication de-escalation in Veteran cancer patients within the last 90- days of life

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Benefits
The residency stipend is $41,821 and includes full federal healthcare benefits. Residents accumulate 13 days of paid vacation time, 13 days of paid sick time, and have 10 Federal holidays per year.

Qualifications
- United States citizenship
- Doctor of pharmacy degree from an American Council on Pharmaceutical Education accredited school of pharmacy
- Pharmacist licensure in any of the United States
- National Matching Service registration

ASHP Midyear Clinical meeting
SAVAHCS PGY1 and PGY2 Residency programs are present at the upcoming ASHP Midyear. Additional information regarding this meeting is available at the ASHP website: [http://www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)

Application Packet Requirements
All application materials are due by January 2, 2019 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time

The SAVAHCS PGY1 Residency program participates in the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS). Please refer to the ASHP website for details regarding PhORCAS. Incomplete applications are not considered for review.

The PhORCAS application requirements include:

- Cover letter or letter of intent specific to the SAVAHCS PGY1 Residency program
- Curriculum vitae
- Official school of pharmacy transcripts including fall grades
- Three written references**

**In addition to the PhORCAS application standard requirements, there are additional requirements for SAVAHCS that reference writers must complete. Each reference writer must provide comments for a minimum of 10 of the “Characteristics Evaluated” on the PhORCAS Standardized Reference form PLUS either complete the first three narrative comments on the PhORCAS form OR provide a traditional letter of reference that addresses the areas listed in the narrative questions. These additional requirements must be communicated by the applicant to their references.

This residency site agrees that no person at this site solicits, accepts, or uses any ranking-related information from any residency applicant.

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Interviews

Interviews for the Pharmacy Residency PGY1 are conducted onsite at the SAVAHCS main campus in Tucson, AZ, from mid-January through February. Potential candidates are invited to interview based on screened application packets (please see above regarding application packet requirements); the candidate may accept the offer to interview if he/she is willing to comply with the human resource (HR) requirements outlined in the interview offer letter. Candidates who are not invited to interview are notified no later than January 30th. The interview is a panel-style interview with the program’s pharmacy preceptors, current pharmacy residents as well as the pharmacy residency director or designee. Phone interviews are not offered. Once all the potential candidates are interviewed, the list is ranked and sent to the National Matching Service. The results are posted by the National Matching Service on the designated date.

Commonly Asked Questions

Q: I do not have US citizenship, but have a green card. Am I eligible for the residency program?
A: Unfortunately, as a Federal Employer, we only accept residents with US citizenship. We are unable to accept potential residents with a green card.

Q: Do you participate in CareerPharm’s Personnel Placement Service (PPS) at the ASHP Clinical Midyear meeting?
A: We do not participate in PPS. We are available at the Midyear Residency showcase.

Q: Does SAVAHCS PGY1 residency program offer phone interviews?
A: We only have onsite interviews at SAVAHCS main campus in Tucson, Arizona.

Q: Does the SAVAHCS PGY1 residency program involve teaching and/or offers teaching certificates?
A: The residency program does not offer teaching certificate. However, precepting and educational activities are longitudinal experiences during the residency program. Please see Educational Experience Activities above.

Q: Is it possible to speak with a current pharmacy resident?
A: Of course! Please just email the contacts listed below.

For further information or questions, please feel free to email:

**Stephanie Davis, PharmD, BCACP**
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