



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health
Administration

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

Pharmacy Residency Program (PGY2) – Oncology

Accredited by the American Society of Health-System

Pharmacists since 2010

The Healthcare System

The Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS) has provided comprehensive, world class health care to Veterans for over ninety years. SAVAHCS is an integrated Veteran's Affairs health care system consisting of over 250 hospital beds, multiple primary care and specialty clinics, two urban community outpatient clinics, and five community outpatient clinics in Tucson's outlying areas serving more than 50,000 Veterans annually.

A wide range of inpatient and ambulatory 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 SAVAHCS Pharmacy Service is a highly integrated, progressive clinical practice model that encompasses approximately 130 pharmacy staff members, including 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.

Residency Goals and Objectives

The goals of the PGY2 oncology pharmacy residency program are to provide specialty training for pharmacists to develop the skills necessary to ensure optimal drug therapy to cancer patients, to analyze and disseminate drug information to other health care professionals and patients, to investigate and solve complex therapeutic problems in a scientific manner, and to further enhance the verbal and written communication skills of the resident. The resident is expected to provide care to cancer patients in a wide variety of clinical environments, including outpatient care, surgical, acute care, and hospice/palliative care setting.

Program Description

The oncology pharmacy residency program is a 12-month period of education and experiences that focuses on oncology pharmacy practice and is designed to provide ongoing pharmacy clinical activities while promoting the residents needs. The resident's experiences throughout the year includes outpatient oncology, surgical oncology, inpatient oncology, administrative oncology, bone marrow transplant, hospice/palliative care, therapeutic drug monitoring, drug information, drug policy development, and also provides additional electives that are specific to the practice of oncology pharmacy. The program provides the resident with clinical experiences in a variety of patients and oncology diagnoses. The resident works with physicians, nurse

practitioners, and nurses in providing quality pharmaceutical services to patients and their families. During the year, the resident is expected to give presentations such as patient management conferences, in-services to nursing and/or providers, journal clubs, and a formal staff development seminar. A research project is required during the residency. The resident presents a poster outlining the research hypothesis and methods then presents the completed project at a regional meeting. The resident is also expected to assist in the teaching/precepting of pharmacy students and PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residents who are taking an elective in oncology pharmacy at SAVAHCS.

Residency Preceptors

All pharmacists employed at SAVAHCS provide direct patient care and assist in the training and education of all the pharmacy residents. The preceptors place a high value on the residents and understand the importance of residency training and their roles in the residents' education. Clinical pharmacy specialists practice in the following areas: primary care, internal medicine, critical care, surgery, rehabilitation medicine, geriatrics, cardiology, mental health, pain, gastroenterology, endocrinology, infectious disease/HIV, nephrology, and oncology/hospice/palliative care. The PGY2 residency program director serves as the primary preceptor for this second-year specialty residency, along with the other oncology pharmacy specialist, but the resident may still spend time in some other areas with other preceptors. This occurs primarily during elective rotations, administrative projects, and teaching situations.

Typical Resident Schedule

July: Orientation

August: Outpatient Oncology

September: Inpatient Oncology

October: Consult Service

November: Surgical Oncology

December: Research/Administrative

January: Elective

February: Hospice/Palliative Care

March: Outpatient Oncology

April: Bone Marrow Transplant (off-site at San Antonio VA or Puget Sound VA)

May: Inpatient Oncology

June: Consult Service

Elective Opportunities

The resident may choose one elective during the residency year. This elective time is used to either tailor additional specific interests of the resident or to further improve upon an already completed rotation. Electives available in the past have included the chronic pain clinic, oncology administration through the local VISN or VA PBM, or hematology. Residents may also repeat an area of interest for this elective rotation.

Benefits

The PGY2 residency program offers an annual stipend of \$45,435. The resident accumulates 13 days of paid vacation time and have paid 10 Federal holidays per year. Sick leave is accrued at the rate of 4 hours every 2 week pay period.

Qualifications

- United States citizenship
- Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited school of pharmacy
- Completion of an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency
- Pharmacist licensure in any of the United States
- National Matching Service and Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS) 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>

Application Requirements

All application materials are due by December 31st 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time

The SAVAHCS PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency program participates in the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS). Please refer to the ASHP website for details. 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 requirements, there are additional requirements for the SAVAHCS application: 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 3 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.**

Candidates who are not invited to interview are notified no later than January 30th.

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

For further information or questions, please contact:

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