



# Pharmacy Residency Program (PGY2 - Oncology)

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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 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 50,000 Veterans annually.

A wide range of inpatient and primary care services are provided in the medical center including internal medicine, primary care, surgery, neurology, infectious diseases, nephrology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, pulmonary, cardiology, oncology, mental health, and emergency medicine. SAVAHCS is the neurosurgery and cardiac referral center for the Southwest Region. The Pharmacy Service is a technology and patient safety leader assisted by the extensive use of robotics and automation.

SAVAHCS has a strong affiliation with the University of Arizona allied healthcare profession programs. Students and residents from many disciplines are trained at SAVAHCS each year, including pharmacy students from several schools of pharmacy.

The SAVAHCS Pharmacy Service Line provides progressive clinical services to the medical center with approximately 115 pharmacy staff members, and 30+ Clinical Pharmacy Specialists in a variety of practice settings.

## Residency Goals and Objectives

The goals of the 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 will be expected to provide care to cancer patients in a wide variety of clinical environments, including outpatient care, surgical oncology, acute care, and in the 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 resident's needs. The resident's experiences throughout the year will include outpatient oncology, surgical oncology, inpatient oncology, administrative oncology, bone marrow transplant, hospice/palliative care, therapeutic drug monitoring, drug information, drug policy development, and will also provide additional electives that are specific to the practice of oncology pharmacy. The program will provide the resident with clinical experiences in a variety of patients and oncology diagnoses. The resident will work together with physicians, nurse practitioners, and nurses in providing quality pharmaceutical services to patients and their families. During the year, the resident will be expected to give presentations such as patient management conferences, in-services to nursing and/or providers, journal clubs, and a formal staff development seminar. 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. A research project is required, and the resident will present a poster of the planned study at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and the results of the study at a pharmacy residency conference.



# 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 Experiential Schedule

July: Orientation

August: Outpatient Oncology

September: Hospice/Palliative Care

October: Consult Service

November: Inpatient 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: Surgical Oncology and Critical Care (urology, neurosurgery, general surgery, CT surgery)

## Elective Opportunities

The resident may choose two electives 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 \$44,522. The resident will accumulate 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. Educational paid leave will be provided to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, a pharmacy residency conference, and an additional meeting that is specific to the practice of oncology pharmacy. Partial funding may be provided for the ASHP Midyear conference.



# Qualifications

- United States citizenship
- Doctor of pharmacy degree from an American Council on Pharmaceutical Education 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 registration

## ASHP Midyear Clinical meeting

SAVAHCS PGY1 and PGY2 Residency programs will be present at the upcoming ASHP Midyear. Additional information regarding this meeting can be found at the ASHP website: <http://www.ashp.org>

## Application Packet Requirements

**All application materials are due by  
December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time**

In addition to the PhORCAS application standard 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.
- ✓ Each applicant must complete a **technical drug information writing piece** and submit to PhORCAS. Please contact us by email for drug information scenarios to choose from.
- ✓ **Technical Drug Information Writing (Please contact us by email to request drug information question)**  
Applicants applying for the SAVAHCS PGY2 residency will need to write one technical writing sample and include the uploaded drug information response (PDF [.pdf] or MSWORD [.doc]) to the PhORCAS website as part of the application packet to this program. The response should consist of an assessment of relevant literature and a synthesis of the information gathered in relation to the information request. A conclusion with recommendation is required, as well as a list of references cited and used. The literature review and synthesis should not exceed 750 words and the conclusion section should not exceed 250 words.

Scenarios will be sent to the requesting applicant via email when the applicant initiates an email request to [Russell.Crawford@Va.Gov](mailto:Russell.Crawford@Va.Gov). Please title email: TECHNICAL DRUG INFORMATION SCENARIOS (**DO NOT REVISE SUBJECT LINE TO ENSURE TIMELY RESPONSE**)

Please note: only one responding email will be sent to the requesting applicant.



# Interviews

Interviews for the Oncology Pharmacy Residency PGY2 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) and will be contacted via email. Candidates who are not invited to interview will be notified via email no later than January 30th. The interview is a panel-style interview with the program's pharmacy preceptors, current PGY-2 Oncology Pharmacy resident as well as the pharmacy residency director. 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 will be available at the Midyear Residency showcase.

Q: Does SAVAHCS PGY2 Oncology residency program offer phone interviews?

A: We only have onsite interviews at SAVAHCS main campus in Tucson, Arizona.

Q: Does the SAVAHCS PGY2 Oncology residency program involve teaching and/or offers teaching certificates?

A: The residency program does offer a teaching certificate through the University of Arizona if one was not obtained during the PGY-1 Residency year if the resident is interested in completing one. Teaching is available as informal opportunities, as the pharmacy resident will encounter pharmacy students on rotation as well as PGY-1 Pharmacy Residents. More formal opportunities are available, including precepting U of A College of Pharmacy student case studies, giving an hour CE presentation to the pharmacy staff at SAVAHCS and presenting a lecture at Midwestern School of Pharmacy during the residency year

Q: Is it possible to speak with a current pharmacy resident?

A: Of course! Please just email the contacts listed, and either will forward your interest to the current PGY2 resident.

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

## Contacts

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

### **Rusty Crawford, B Pharm, BCOP**

Oncology Pharmacy PGY2 Residency Program Director

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist- Hem/Onc

[Russell.Crawford@va.gov](mailto:Russell.Crawford@va.gov)

### **Megan Banaszynski, PharmD**

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist- Hem/Onc

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