PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency

UVA Health offers an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)-Accredited PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency. During this 12-month program, residents are involved in high-quality patient-centered care, leadership and practice management, project management, and education of patients, health care providers, and trainees.

Pharmacist residency education and training in community-based practice aims to develop pharmacy leaders who are capable of improving the health of patients within the communities they serve. The purpose of the PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency is to build upon the doctor of pharmacy (PharmD) education and outcomes to develop community-based pharmacist practitioners with diverse patient care, leadership, and education skills who are eligible to pursue advanced training opportunities including postgraduate year two (PGY2) residencies and professional certifications.

Residency Benefits

Current resident benefits include:
- Stipend of $52,250
- Vacation/holidays (n=15)
- Sick days (n=14) and interview days(n=5)
- Allotment of sick and interview days
- Premium medical/dental/vision insurance
- Professional leave to attend meetings (ASHP Midyear and the regional residency conference)

Application Requirements

Applicants must be:
- Enrolled in or a graduate of an ACPE-accredited PharmD program
- A licensed pharmacist in the Commonwealth of Virginia by September 1

Completed application materials must be uploaded into PhORCAS by December 23

Residency match #: 247815

Contact Information

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Justin Vesser, PharmD, MS

Dr. Vesser is the manager of ambulatory pharmacy services and residency program director for the PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency Program. He earned his PharmD at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama and Masters of Pharmaceutical Science with a focus on Health Outcomes and Pharmacoeconomics at Virginia Commonwealth University. He oversees operations for UVA outpatient pharmacies and clinical ambulatory pharmacy services. During his time with UVA, he has led implementation of a novel unit-based meds to beds program. He also oversaw moving a primary outpatient pharmacy to a new location and conversion to a 24/7 operation to better meet patient needs. His interests include team-building, developing the role of pharmacy technicians and designing new pharmacies.

Devki S. Gajera, PharmD, MPH

Dr. Gajera is a 2020 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy. Prior to pharmacy school, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry with a minor in Biology from Old Dominion University. Her professional interests include transitions of care, public health, social determinants of health, and health disparities. Dr. Gajera's quality project will address English-to-Spanish automated language translation of medication directions for patients being discharged. In her free time, Dr. Gajera enjoys hiking, reading, marathon-watching shows, and spending time with family/friends.

University of Virginia Health

The University of Virginia (UVA) Health, located in Charlottesville, Virginia, embodies the leadership and inventiveness personified by its founder, Thomas Jefferson. Two centuries ago in 1819, Jefferson established the nation's 10th medical school, which has since grown into a nationally renowned academic medical center committed to providing outstanding patient care, educating tomorrow's health care leaders and discovering better ways to treat disease.

UVA Health received national recognition in the latest U.S. News & World Report "Best Hospitals" guide with 9 adult and 6 pediatric medical specialties recognized in 2019. For the fourth consecutive year UVA Medical Center is ranked as the number one hospital in Virginia. UVA Medical Center has received Magnet® recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for its quality patient care, excellence in nursing care and innovative nursing practices.

The University of Virginia Health integrates patient care, health education, research, and public service. UVA Health consists of the following five entities: the University of Virginia Medical Center, the University of Virginia School of Medicine, the University of Virginia School of Nursing, the Claude Moore

The University Community

Charlottesville is a modern, progressive city, filled with old-world elegance and charm, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Charlottesville is famous for its colorful history, distinctive architecture, southern hospitality, and small city sophistication, with an estimated population of 201,599 residing in the greater Charlottesville metro area. Charlottesville has received extensive recognition including: One of America's Best Small Cities for Foodies (Travelocity, 2016), 15 Best Places to Live in the U.S. (#3) (NY Post, 2016), Best Place to Live and Healthiest, Happiest City in the U.S. (#5) (Livability, 2017, The Today Show 2016), Healthiest Small Town in the U.S. (Health Line, 2016), 50 Best College Towns (#7) (College Rank, 2016), Top 100 Best Places to Live (#21) (Livability.com, 2016), #1 Most Beautiful College campus in America (Best College Reviews, 2015).

Department of Pharmacy Services

The Department of Pharmacy has a progressive practice model with clinical coordinators and clinical pharmacists that provide extensive, decentralized clinical services throughout the health system. These efforts are supported by computerized prescriber order entry, extensive automation services, a state-of-the-art IV room, barcode medication administration, and an integrated electronic health record. Additionally, UVA Health includes a Medication Use Policy Service, Investigational Drug Services, Outpatient Infusion Centers, a Children's Hospital, as well as pharmacist-run ambulatory clinics, and outpatient retail pharmacies.

Ambulatory pharmacy services are comprised of six retail pharmacies and clinical ambulatory pharmacy services. The retail pharmacies provide advanced clinical services, including immunizations, medication therapy management, and targeted high-risk medication education. There is also a focused effort on improving transition of care including medications to bedside services and discharge education. The ambulatory pharmacists participate in an employee population health initiative with the goal of improving overall health.

Mission

UVA Health's Department of Pharmacy Services will provide superlative patient-centered care focused on safe medication practices and innovative education and training.

Vision

The UVA Health System Pharmacy Department is a vital member of the patient care team dedicated to expanding patient care services and leading initiatives to maximize patient safety and improve outcomes. We are a collaborative group focused on providing superlative patient care in the setting of ongoing professional development by all employees, a productive, innovative work environment in which staff are engaged and motivated, and nationally-recognized clinical services and educational/ training programs.Health Sciences Library, and the UVA Physicians Group. UVA Medical Center was honored among the 60 top hospitals for diversity.

PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency Program Overview

Application Requirements

Applicants must be:
- Enrolled in or a graduate of an ACPE-accredited advanced pharmacy program
- Eligible for licensure in Virginia and licensed by September 1

Applicants must upload the following to PhORCAS by the specified deadline:
- Curriculum vitae
    - Include completed and anticipated advanced pharmacy practice experience rotations
    - Include leadership and organizational involvement
- Letter of Intent
- Official college of pharmacy transcript
- **Two** references/letters of recommendation from preceptors able to reflect on fourth-year advanced pharmacy practice experiences (not in the classroom). References must comment on the following characteristics:
    - Ability to organize and manage time
    - Ability to work with peers and communicate
    - Clinical problem-solving skills
    - Independence and resourcefulness
    - Willingness to accept constructive criticism
    - Professionalism

A **virtual** interview with the residency program director, pharmacy leadership, and preceptors is required.

Please note: UVA Health Residency Program does not sponsor work visas.

Orientation

The 2021-2022 UVA Health System Residency will begin on July 1, 2021 and will end on June 30, 2022. Mandatory orientation will take place mid-June with the entering medical residents. As part of residency orientation, residents will rotate through various areas of the Department of Pharmacy Services and develop skills required for the provision of pharmacy services. Most rotations are five weeks in duration and begin following orientation. Pharmacy residency policies can be referenced on the UVA pharmacy website at: medicalcenter.virginia.edu/pharmacy/residency_info

PGY1 Community Pharmacy Rotations

Required Rotations
- Orientation
- Community Pharmacy I: Pharmacy Operations
- Community Pharmacy II: Transitions of Care
- Community Pharmacy III: Population Health
- Inpatient: Internal Medicine or Internal Family Medicine
- Ambulatory Care: Internal Medicine
- Administration

Elective Rotations
- Specialty Pharmacy
- Inpatient/Outpatient Cardiology
- Inpatient/Outpatient Solid Organ Transplant
- Ambulatory Care: Family Medicine Clinic

Longitudinal Service
- Residents will staff in the UVA Outpatient Pharmacy every other weekend for a total of 416 hours over 12 months. Residents will work one major holiday.

Residents will have up to three rotations (15 weeks) available for elective rotations. Additional rotations may be developed based on resident interest and preceptor availability. Between the third and fourth rotation blocks (November and December), residents will have a mixture of research days and mini-rotations.
Mini-rotations are abbreviated experiences (2-5 days in duration) held in December that provide residents exposure to area in which they 1) do not have a scheduled rotation; 2) would like repeat experiences beyond scheduled rotations; or 3) would like a varied experience beyond scheduled rotations.

Research Activities

Completion of a major research project is a requirement of the residency. Final reports must be submitted in manuscript style and approved by the project advisor and program director.

During the first half of the year, each resident will also complete Quality Improvement projects. Completed projects will be submitted for poster presentation at the Vizient Pharmacy Council meeting held in conjunction with the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

Presentation Requirements

Residents are required to present results of their quality improvement project at the Vizient Pharmacy Council Poster Session at the meeting held in conjunction with the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. The results of their residency research project will be presented at the regional residency conference. Additionally, each resident is responsible for presenting one ACPE-accredited pharmacist seminar, one ACPE-accredited tech talk, as well as patient case presentations, and journal clubs.

Service Component

Residents provide service in the UVA Outpatient Pharmacy every other weekend. Responsibilities include medication dispensing, patient education and counseling, immunizations, support of discharge services and supervision of pharmacy interns. Participation in the service component provides necessary training and allows the residents to meet the intent of the ASHP residency standard.

Certification

The PGY1 Community-Based resident has the option to complete ACLS training and certification. This training is offered through UVA Medical Center at no charge to the resident.

Teaching

Through a partnership with the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Pharmacy, UVA Health pharmacy residents have the opportunity to earn a Teaching and Learning Certificate. As part of the VCU School of Pharmacy-UVA Division Satellite Campus, residents have the opportunity to interact with pharmacy students completing their third and fourth professional years at the UVA campus. Furthermore, the Department of Pharmacy Services serves as a rotation site for introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences for VCU and Shenandoah University School of Pharmacy students. Residents will have a variety of teaching opportunities that include didactic experiences and preceptorship of students on rotations.

UVA Health

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