PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

AU Medical Center at Augusta University, home of the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) provides a 12 month ASHP-accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency, which is offered in conjunction with the University of Georgia (UGA) College of Pharmacy. Residents are appointed as graduate teaching assistants for the College of Pharmacy and The University of Georgia awards a graduate certificate for successful completion of the residency program.

This post-graduate experience provides comprehensive training in acute care, ambulatory care, drug information, drug-use policy development, practice management, teaching and research. The program is flexible to meet individual residents’ specific needs and interests. Residents participate in pharmacy coverage (rotating schedule, weekends and early evenings) and are responsible for completing a research project suitable for publication in a professional journal. Over four decades of Pharmacy Residency graduates are “making a difference” in a variety of practice settings. There is an option to early commit to a PGY2 residency in Pediatrics, Oncology or Critical Care.

MISSION OF OUR RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Each graduate of the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency will

- Be a competent, confident and compassionate pharmacy practitioner who is an active member of the health care team
- Prevent, identify and resolve medication related problems and assure safe, effective and appropriate drug therapy for patients across the continuum of care
- Demonstrate commitment to the pharmacy profession and serve as a role model
- Educate patients, students and other health care professionals
- Contribute to the advancement of the practice of pharmacy in their practice setting
- Develop an attitude of self evaluation and improvement
- Demonstrate marketable job skills in the changing health care environment

Residency Program Purpose:

PGY1 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy 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.

Our residency graduates assume substantive precepting and/or teaching responsibilities, often as adjunct faculty or in clinical faculty roles. They will be leaders and change agents at their practice site and for the profession.
PHARMACISTS...WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Pharmacists completing this residency will be competent, confident and compassionate pharmaceutical care providers across the continuum of patient care. They will be accountable for achieving optimal drug therapy outcomes as active members of the health care team. These pharmacists will exercise skill in educating patients, consumers, other health professionals and the next generation of pharmacists. They will serve as a role model by contributing to improved pharmacy services and patient outcomes in their practice setting. Through self evaluation and improvement, they will grow professionally throughout their career.

Program Schedule
The residency program begins July 1 and lasts 12 months.

Compensation and Benefits
Residents enjoy a competitive stipend and generous benefits package including twenty-four days paid-time-off (PTO) as well as professional leave days for meeting attendance, individualized subsidized insurance starting day 1, free parking, and matching contribution to 403-b retirement plan. The program pays resident travel expenses and registration fees to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and the Southeastern Residency Conference. As graduate teaching assistants for UGA, the resident receives a tuition waiver on graduate course instruction at The University of Georgia.

Application Process
Applicants must possess a Pharm.D. degree from an ACPE-accredited college or school of pharmacy and must be eligible for licensure as a pharmacist in the State of Georgia. (Licensure by examination in Georgia requires proof of 500 intern hours outside of school.) Deadline for receipt of applications is January 1st each year; however early application is encouraged. On-site interviews are offered to a limited number of applicants based on review of the completed application and telephone screening interviews.

Application Material Includes:
1) Standardized application through PhORCAS
2) Application Form (includes essay)*
3) Three professional references through PhORCAS *
   *Special instruction form for reference writers describes request for content in the PhORCAS reference form (see web site to download)

For complete application instructions, see the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Application Form. Applications are submitted electronically through PhORCAS, for more information refer to online information at http://www.augustahealth.org/pharmacy-residencies

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EXPERIENCES AND PRECEPTORS

Experiences Offered

Core Requirements
Acute Care Adult Medicine*
Ambulatory Care*
Critical Care*
Pediatrics*
Pharmacy Management/Med Policy
Drug Information

* Choose from options

**Core can be expanded to elective

Elective Experiences**
Clinical Pharmacy Management
Clinical Research Pharmacy
Critical Care (Medicine, Surgery, Trauma, Neuro)
Geriatrics
Infectious Disease/Antimicrobial Stewardship
Internal Medicine
Medication Safety
Neonatology
Neuroscience/Neurology
Oncology Clinic
Pediatrics
Pediatric Critical Care
Pharmacy Informatics
Psychiatry
Renal Transplant (Clinic, Inpatient)

Longitudinal Practice Management
Hospital Pharmacy Practice (weekend staffing experience)
Drug Policy Development/Management
Investigational Drugs/Clinical Research
Long Term Care (Geriatrics Consultant)
Medication Safety
MUE/Quality Improvement
Practice Research/Teaching

Program Contacts and Key Preceptors (see complete list & bios online)

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HEALTH SYSTEM PHARMACY SERVICES

• The Medical Center Pharmacy provides pharmaceutical care to patients and comprehensive services to physicians and other health care professionals as an integral part of the teaching, research, and patient-care programs of the clinical enterprise. The Pharmacy Department’s activities are enhanced by integrated state-of-the-art computerized information systems, and automation from carrousel central inventory management to the latest unit-based cabinets and smart infusion pumps.

Pharmacy services available at a variety of locations around campus:

• The Central Pharmacy is the primary production area. The medication distribution process is highly automated with MedCarousel technology for refilling 80 Acudose automated dispensing cabinets throughout the medical center that provide immediate access to over 80% of doses. There is also a 24-hour unit-dose medication cart fill for pediatric patients requiring individualized doses. The packaging and manufacturing area prepares unit doses from bulk containers, compounds a variety of dosage forms, and flavors pediatric oral liquids. Large-volume parenterals, minibags, total parenteral nutrition solutions, and chemotherapy are aseptically prepared in a USP797-compliant iv clean room. Our purchasing, inventory management, and administrative offices are also located in the central pharmacy.

• The Medical Office Building Pharmacy provides pharmacy services to one of the largest ambulatory care centers in the southeast. An Employee Pharmacy opened in late fall 2012, Specialty Pharmacy services were implemented in 2014 and a new Retail Pharmacy that has a discharge prescription program with transitions in care management and delivery to the patient’s bedside opened in May 2015. The retail pharmacy also coordinates with prescribers to provide Patient Assistance Program drugs.

• Therapeutic Policy/Formulary Management/Drug Information Pharmacists proactively provide pharmaceutical and drug therapy information to health care practitioners. Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee activities, formulary management, the medication use evaluation (MUE) program, and adverse drug reaction reporting are coordinated through a member of the Pharmacy Leadership Team. The Drug Information Newsletter has received state and national awards for excellence. Drug information resources include access to the University of Georgia Library and Augusta University’s Health Science Campus Greenblatt Library electronic reference systems.
• The Georgia Cancer Center Pharmacy prepares chemotherapy and supportive care medications for administration to ambulatory patients with cancer and provides services for a Cancer Clinical Research Unit (Phase I and Phase II clinical trials). The pharmacy is adjacent to the infusion area, which facilitates interactions and patient education. Augusta University and AU Medical Center are pursuing an initiative to be recognized as an NCI-designated Cancer Center and this is one of only 12 NCI Community Oncology Research Program Minority/Underserved Community Site grantees (NCORP) nationally. (see http://ncorp.cancer.gov)

• Anticoagulation Clinic is a pharmacist-run collaborative practice site.

• Renal Transplant Clinic provides multidisciplinary and collaborative care to patients before and after solid organ transplant and evaluation of donors and recipients. Two pharmacists are dedicated full time to the growing Solid Organ Transplant program (both inpatient and ambulatory care).

• Unit Based Pharmacists and Clinical Specialists cover hospital inpatient units. They provide clinical pharmacy support to the medical and nursing staffs including pharmacokinetic consulting and drug choice recommendations. They also participate in a variety of direct patient care services including medication counseling and therapeutic drug monitoring.

• The Clinical Research Pharmacy provides study medication management and research support services for over 150 inpatient and outpatient protocols. There is strong pharmacist involvement on both biomedical IRBs (including a pharmacist Chair for the hematology/oncology-focused IRB).

Pharmacy services are also provided to the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home (GWVNH), a 188-bed long-term care facility on campus. Consultant services include attendance at admission interviews, developing a pharmacy care plan, monitoring therapy outcomes and recommending pharmacotherapeutic options. The Pharmacy also provides unit dose drug distribution, drug information and a medication use evaluation program.

Education and Training Programs of the Pharmacy Department include an ASHP-accredited PGY1, PGY2 Pediatric, Oncology and Critical Care residencies, numerous IPPE and APPE (clerkships) for the University of Georgia Pharm.D. Program, pharmacy intern experiences, and technician training rotations in conjunction with two technical colleges. Pharmacy practitioners hold academic appointments with the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy as Clinical Faculty and/or Preceptors. “Pharmacy Grand Rounds” is a weekly ACPE-accredited educational seminar jointly sponsored by the AU Medical Center Pharmacy Department and the UGA College of Pharmacy. Our department has a strong commitment to ongoing pharmacy preceptor development and our teaching mission.
University of Georgia (UGA) College of Pharmacy has nine full-time faculty located on the Augusta University campus. The faculty participates in pharmacy services as part of their research, education, and training activities. The College of Pharmacy is an active partner in the pharmacy residency program. Pharmacy residents have the opportunity to participate in classroom teaching locally and via video link, and are involved with mentoring of pharmacy students in Augusta. Residents are graduate teaching assistants in the College of Pharmacy and earn a graduate certificate from the UGA Graduate School as part of the residency program. Residents qualify for a tuition waiver if they would like to take elective UGA graduate courses.

Overview
The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy offers the Doctor of Pharmacy professional degree. Based in Athens, Georgia, the college admits about 150 students a year. The four-year professional program integrates classroom, laboratory and experiential training in a curriculum organized around both human physiology and disease states. Thirty students from each class spend the last 2 years of their program on the Augusta campus with another 10 coming for the 4th year clinical rotations. The college also offers graduate studies in disciplines associated with pharmacotherapeutic research, clinical therapeutics, and administration.

History
The College of Pharmacy was founded in 1903. In 1926, seven years before a degree was required for licensure, the college adopted a four-year Bachelor of Science program. Since that time the college has remained on the cutting edge of pharmacy education. State-of-the-art two-way interactive video links our campus to faculty and students in Athens, Albany and Savannah. The UGA College of Pharmacy has also been a leader in implementing online instruction and providing students with earlier practice experience opportunities.

Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy
The Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy offers clinical training in many areas through clinical sites in Athens, Augusta (at AU), Savannah, and Albany. Faculty work in a diverse array of patient care sites from primary care clinics and community pharmacies to large, tertiary-care hospitals. The Department offers PhD degrees in Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacy Care Administration. The new Center for Pharmacy and Experimental Therapeutics at the Medical College of Georgia facilitates research and teaching collaborations between UGA and AU.
About Augusta

Augusta, the Garden City, has a small-town atmosphere with big-city resources. The city borders South Carolina, with the Savannah River providing a beautiful, natural boundary. The larger community is diverse, offering a pleasurable mix of city life and country comfort with a growing skyline, but still plenty of peaceful, friendly neighborhoods and an affordable cost of living. Blankets of azaleas carpet the city each spring, and thousands of trees emblazon the area with color season after season. The Augusta Canal and North Augusta Greeneway feature walking and biking trails that offer miles of scenic exercise, recreation and relaxation.

Augusta is the cultural entertainment and shopping center for the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), which encompasses 18 counties and more than half a million people, 80 percent of whom live in the metropolitan area. Attractions in the city include the prestigious Masters Golf Tournament, and annual international rowing regatta, year round Riverwalk activities and Lake Thurmond, with a 1,200-mile shoreline. The city has minor-league baseball, professional rugby and roller derby teams, an opera association, community theaters, a symphony orchestra and a ballet company among other offerings. It is also the home of the EWSI Ironman Augusta 70.3, which held the record for the largest IRONMAN 70.3 race.

Augusta is a friendly, close-knit community with open arms for the many newcomers attracted to the area each year.
About Augusta University (AU)

Augusta University, home of the Medical College of Georgia, is one of only four public comprehensive research institutions in the state of Georgia. Founded in 1828, the university includes nine colleges and schools with nearly 10,000 students, 1,000 full-time faculty members and 5,000 staff members. It houses the nation's 13th-oldest medical school, the state's sole dental college, an aligned and integrated health system, a growing intercollegiate athletics program, the highly respected Hull College of Business, the diverse Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and a College of Education among other units.

The university has a strong commitment to research, building on a proud tradition that boasts, among other achievements, the groundwork for such breakthroughs as beta-blocking drugs, fertility treatments, birth control pills and the cure for pellagra. The university is building on this excellent reputation as never before with major research initiatives in cancer as well as the cardiovascular, neurological and immune systems. The university's mission is to provide leadership and excellence in teaching, discovery, clinical care and service as a student-centered comprehensive research university and academic health center with a wide range of programs from learning assistance through postdoctoral studies.

About AU Health System

Based in Augusta, Ga., AU Health System is a world-class health care network, offering the most comprehensive primary, specialty and subspecialty care in the region. AU Health System provides skilled, compassionate care to its patients, conducts leading-edge clinical research and fosters the medical education and training of tomorrow’s health care practitioners.

AU Medical Center is a not-for-profit corporation that manages the 478-bed adult hospital; the 154-bed Children's Hospital of Georgia; the AU Medical Office Building, with more than 80 outpatient practice sites in one convenient setting; the Critical Care Center, housing a 13-county regional Level I trauma center; and a variety of centers and units such as the Georgia Cancer Center, Sports Medicine Center and the Georgia Radiation Therapy Center.

Being an academic health center, AU Medical Center differs from community hospitals. We have three primary missions -- patient care, education and research. As an academic health center, we must provide a full range of clinical services and maintain the infrastructure to foster education and research. Over 450 residents and fellows receive post-graduate training through the medical center. AU Medical Center at Augusta University is nationally recognized for its emphasis on patient and family-centered care.