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PGY1/PGY2 Residency Program Overviews

AU Medical Center provides a 12 month ASHP-accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency, which is offered in conjunction with the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Residents are appointed as graduate teaching assistants for the College of Pharmacy. AU Medical center’s program provides comprehensive training in acute care, ambulatory care, long term care, drug information, drug-use policy development, practice management, teaching and research. The flexibility of the program allows residents to individualize a program to meet their specific needs and interests. Residents are responsible for completing a research project suitable for publication in a professional journal.

The organization also provides PGY2 training in pediatrics, hematology/oncology, and critical care. These programs allow residents to work with experts in their field to hone their clinical skills in a specialty field and develop into an excellent practitioner.

These residencies train pharmacists for practice as clinician-educators providing advanced clinical services in academic health care settings or other organized health-system environments with teaching and/or precepting responsibilities. They will be leaders and change agents at their practice site and for the profession.

Congratulations to Our New PGY2 Directors

Amber Bradley Clemmons, Pharm.D., BCOP
PGY2 Oncology Program Director

Amber is a 2009 PGY1 graduate of our residency program, who returned to Augusta as a full-time faculty member at the rank of Clinical Assistant Professor for UGA in August 2011; currently at the rank of Clinical Associate Professor. Amber serves as the clinical pharmacy specialist for the adult bone marrow transplantation (BMT) team.

Christy Cecil Forehand, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP
PGY2 Critical Care Residency Program Director

Christy is a graduate of our PGY1 Pharmacy Residency and PGY2 Critical Care Program. In May 2017, the Augusta University Pharmacy family was excited to welcome Christy back to our team, where she is now a Critical Care Pharmacy Specialist with a focus on medical ICU patients.
AU Medical Center’s Meds to Beds program has continued to expand and provide increased patient access to medications in order to ease their transition back to home after discharge. Two of the residents research projects for this year will be assessing the impact of the program in the adult and pediatric populations so that we can fully evaluate all of the benefits of this service.

This October, the satellite pharmacy increased its operating hours from 4:30 PM closing to 11 PM closing. The satellite pharmacy first opened up in June of 2016 and serves the pediatric and critical care units as well as the pediatric and adult emergency rooms. The evening shift pharmacist covering the ERs and ICUs now operates out of the satellite. Nursing and medical staff have welcomed the change, which offers greater convenience and efficiency for these high volume areas.

GSHP Awards and Recognitions

AU Medical Center was represented well at the GSHP summer meeting! This past August on Amelia Island, GSHP recognized pharmacists for their outstanding contributions to their hospital systems and to the practice of pharmacy as a whole. Dianne May and Christina DeRemer received the Chairs of the Year Award for their work on the organizations Education Committee. We are so glad they were recognized for their contributions!

Recent Publications From Past and Current Residents


2017 Pharmacy Week

This year the AU Medical Center Pharmacy Department had a lot to celebrate! We were pleased to recognize the hard work and dedication of all of our pharmacists and technicians.

Throughout the week we celebrated with food, as well as some friendly competition amongst the department. Pharmacists and technicians were split into six teams that worked together to raise donations for Golden Harvest Food Bank and the Ronald McDonald House in Augusta. This year, the pharmacy department was able to collect and donate a total of 852 pounds of groceries to Gold Harvest Food Bank to feed those in need. We were also able to donate laundry detergent and other cleaning supplies to the Ronald McDonald House located on the AU Medical Center campus.

The week’s celebration concluded with a Pharmacy Celebration Dinner on Friday evening hosted at Augusta’s Pinnacle Club. This year Darla Irwin, pharmacy technician in the Clinical Research Pharmacy, was honored with the award. Darla has been with the pharmacy department since 1991 and has worked as a clinical research pharmacy technician for the past 19 years. Darla was recognized for her dedication, passion for encouraging the work of others, and commitment to service. Darla consistently goes beyond what is expected of her to deliver the best in patient care.

Darla creates beautiful paper bags that she designs for each of the children who are receiving clinical research drugs. Darla began decorating the delivery bags on Valentines day as a way to brighten up the children’s day. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, Darla has continued to decorate the bags throughout the year. “It’s fun” she states, “it lets them know they are not alone, and its something to look forward to...I do it because I love my patients...a way of giving back to them.” With her artistic talent, Darla brightens the day of the children and their families. We are so proud of Darla and the many other pharmacy staff who go above and beyond each and every day!
GSHP Resident Research Forum
On August 4th, the residents joined pharmacy residents from across the state at the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacist (GSHP) residency research forum. The forum is held annually in Atlanta, GA, and provides residents with the necessary knowledge and tools to develop their own research project for the year. Here the residents learned about professional involvement, project and personal time-management, as well as the basics of protocol writing. AU Medical Center’s program director Marjorie Phillips led a presentation on an overview of the IRB process, which helped to clarify what for many is a daunting hurdle to developing a research project.

In order to put these concepts into real-life context, a panel of PGY2 residents shared the insights they gained from doing their research project last year. Paige Watkins and Morgan Gwynn participated in this panel and discussed their experiences designing and implementing their own projects. The day concluded with a small group discussion on how to design a research project.

We enjoyed meeting the other residents from Georgia and learning about the research process with them. We left the forum better prepared to design and begin our own projects!

UGA Teaching Seminar
On August 10-11th, University of Georgia (UGA) pharmacy residents from Augusta, Savannah, Albany and Athens convened for the annual UGA teaching seminar hosted in Athens, Georgia. The residents had the opportunity to meet and learn more about one another in an ice-breaker at the Georgia Museum of Art. That evening, the residents, faculty and preceptors gathered at Drs. Brad and Beth Phillip’s house for an evening of food and fellowship.

On Friday the residents learned more about the UGA graduate teaching program. PGY1 and PGY2 residents attended sessions designed specifically for their learning needs. Topics presented during the seminar included establishing a teaching philosophy, engaging students in active learning, developing learning objectives, and facilitating small group learning. The residents enjoyed learning from experienced faculty members as well as getting to know their fellow UGA residents!

Residency Class Trip - Chicago, IL
This year the residents traveled to the Windy City to learn more about other residency programs across the country. The residents were graciously hosted by the University of Illinois Chicago and Chicago Medical Center. Margaret Oates-Poisson and Andrea Sikora-Newsome accompanied the residents on their trip. Margaret, a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago's PGY1 program, guided us throughout the city of Chicago.

At the University of Illinois Chicago we were greeted by PGY1 Residency program director, Dr. Frank Paloucek, who gave us an orientation to general clinical services at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System. We were able to observe one of the noon reports that the residents and pharmacy director participate in daily in order to review the requests from the previous night’s on-call.

On the second day we met with residents from Chicago Medical Center. Here we learned more about the program’s rapid clinical expansion as well as extensive resident on-call services. We also had the opportunity to meet Remoc, mascot of the Comer children’s hospital!

After visiting the University of Illinois Chicago and Chicago Medical Center, we returned to Augusta with new ideas, but also with increased excitement and pride for our own program. The 2017-2018 Residency class is very grateful to the pharmacy department for providing us with this opportunity to network and learn more about other programs.

Fun Around Augusta
Introducing the 2016-2017 Residency Class

Michelle Leatherwood, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Resident
Michelle is originally from Maryville, Tennessee and is a graduate of Samford University’s McWhorter School of Pharmacy in Birmingham, Alabama. Her areas of interest include ambulatory care, psychiatry. Michelle is passionate about teaching and in the future she would like to work in academia. Last year Michelle presented her capstone project, “Assessment of the Provision of Professional Liability Insurance for Students” at ASHP Midyear. Michelle’s current research is assessing the impact of the Outpatient Meds to Beds Program in adult patients. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Lindsey Sellers, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Resident
Lindsey is from Columbus, Georgia, and she earned her Pharm.D. from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Lindsey has early committed to AU Medical Center’s critical care PGY2. Lindsey’s current research is assessing the impact of a pharmacist-driven protocol for adding and removing prophylactic granulocyte colony stimulating factor in patients receiving their first cycle of chemotherapy. Lindsey is interested in academia, and in the future would like to serve as a preceptor. In her spare time, she enjoys running and spending time outdoors, especially kayaking the Savannah river.

Sarah Clements, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Resident
Sarah grew up in Rome, Georgia and earned her bachelor’s degree in chemical and biomolecular engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in May 2013. Sarah is a graduate of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Her current areas of interest include internal medicine and critical care. During her 4th year APPEs, Sarah researched duplicate orders for as needed blood pressure medications. This year she will evaluate time to initiation of alcohol withdrawal treatment as an MUE project. Her research is determining the optimal antimicrobial agent for double coverage of piperacillin-tazobactam and cefepime resistant pseudomonas in AU Medical Center’s medical ICU. Sarah’s favorite place is the beach, and she loves going to Jekyll island. Sarah enjoys cooking, attending classes at Oxygen fitness and spending time with her chocolate lab, Sugar.

Shaily Doshi, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Resident
Shaily is originally from Kampala, Uganda. She earned her Pharm.D. at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Her current areas of interest include internal medicine and ambulatory care. This year Shaily will be studying prolonged versus short infusion rates of IV magnesium in general medicine patients with hypomagnesemia. In her spare time, Shaily enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, hiking and playing board games.

I was first exposed to AU Medical Center’s program during my first year of pharmacy school, when one of the PGY1 residents taught in my drug information class. When I started researching residency programs during my fourth year, I was drawn to AU Medical Center’s diverse rotations, supportive preceptors, and opportunities for teaching. AU Medical Center’s rotation opportunities aligned with my interests and offered a wide variety of experiences to challenge me to grow professionally. This year, I had the opportunity to teach in the first year drug information class and bring everything full circle!

“Augusta University Medical Center provided all aspects of a residency program that I was looking for, specifically precepting and teaching opportunities in a multi-disciplinary setting as well as opportunities to participate in caring for pediatric patients in a children’s hospital. I couldn’t be happier to be completing my first of residency at the Augusta University Medical Center. Go Dawgs and Go Jags!”

Paul Bauman, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Resident
Originally from Ardmore, Oklahoma, Paul earned his Pharm.D. from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Paul’s areas of interest include pediatrics and infectious diseases. Last year Paul assessed the use of 4 factor prothrombin complex concentrate (4FPCC) for anticoagulation reversal. His current research project is assessing the impact of AU Medical Center’s pediatric Meds to Beds program on transitions of care. Paul has early committed to AU Medical Center’s PGY2 in pediatrics. In his spare time, he enjoys exercising, trying out new recipes, watching movies and building with legos.

I was attracted to the AU Medical Center residency program because of the wide variety rotations offered and the people I met there. I knew it would be a perfect fit for me because of the special interest all the preceptors took in my professional development as a student here and now as a resident.”
Morgan Gwynn, Pharm.D.
PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Resident
Morgan is from Birmingham, AL and earned her Pharm.D. from Auburn University’s Harrison School of Pharmacy. She completed her PGY1 at AU Medical Center and is now the PGY2 resident in oncology. In June, Morgan’s published a review article on the role of anti-PD-1/PD-L1 immunotherapy in the treatment of metastatic urothelial carcinoma in the Annals of Pharmacotherapy. Her PGY1 research project was the development and validation of a novel medication regimen complexity scoring tool in critically ill patients, and her current research is assessing the incidence and type of immune-mediated adverse events after influenza vaccination in cancer patients on immune checkpoint inhibitors. After residency, Morgan plans to pursue a position in academia. When she’s not spending time with or showing off pictures of her dog Leo, Morgan enjoys playing golf, reading and traveling.

Paige Watkins, Pharm.D.
PGY2 Pediatric Pharmacy Resident
Paige is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan and is a graduate of Butler University’s College of Pharmacy in Indianapolis, Indiana. Paige completed her PGY1 year at AU Medical Center and is the current chief resident and one of the PGY2 residents in pediatrics. Last year Paige’s research evaluated the efficacy of inhaled tobramycin in pediatric patients with ventilator associated tracheitis. This year Paige is studying the efficacy of intravenous versus oral or rectal acetaminophen in pediatric patients after cardiothoracic surgery. In her free time, Paige enjoys baking, doing Pilates, and watching Butler basketball.

Alicia Sanchez, Pharm.D.
PGY2 Pediatric Pharmacy Resident
Alicia is one of our PGY2 residents in pediatrics. Alicia is originally from Mount Juliet, Tennessee, and she earned her Pharm.D. from the University of Tennessee. She completed her PGY1 training at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. She published a case report of “Probable Metronidazole Induced Serum Sickness-like reaction in a Pediatric Patient” in the Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics. As a PGY1, she studied the use of clonidine for preventing dexmedetomidine withdrawal in the pediatric ICU. This year, her research will be focused on adrenal function and use of the vasoactive-inotrope score in infants after cardiac surgery. Next After residency, Alicia hopes to work as a pediatric pharmacist in the PICU at an academic institution. Alicia enjoys baking, watching Tennessee Football, and most of all spending time with her niece, Florence.

The variety of patient care experiences originally attracted me to Children’s Hospital of Georgia at Augusta University Medical Center. Once interviewing, passion for patient care and the desire to invest in residents on a personal level radiated from each preceptor.

I am so very grateful for the opportunity to serve as Chief Resident for the 2017-2018 residency class of AU Medical Center and the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy! Morgan and I were lucky enough to welcome six new faces to Augusta this year, with five PGY1 residents as well as a second PGY2 in pediatrics. As we approach the halfway point in our residency year, it is amazing to be able to look back and see just how much the class has grown in their abilities to critically think, apply knowledge, function independently, and use all this to become invaluable members of their medical teams. It has been exciting to see each resident further identify their passions and areas of interest, and I have no doubt that the group will go on after this year to do wonderful things at their future institutions. On top of all of their hard work, the residency class has also found time to relax and have fun together. Whether in Augusta, Athens, Atlanta, or Chicago, the residents have taken full advantage of their time together, and I have really enjoyed getting to see the group connect as a class. This group makes my responsibilities as Chief Resident easy, and I am so thankful to them for being such an outstanding class. I am so proud of what we have accomplished as a group so far, and I look forward to seeing what the second half of the year brings for the 2017-2018 class!

Paige Watkins
PGY2 Pediatric Pharmacy Resident
Chief Resident 2017-2018
Fall Director Updates:

Marjorie Shaw Phillips, PGY1 Pharmacy Resident:
This issue highlights our recent graduates and current residency class, which grew to five PGY1s after we received a Pharmacy Expansion Grant from the ASHP Foundation for 2015-2016. ASHP originally accredited our pharmacy residency (for the then Medical College of Georgia or MCG) over 40 years ago, in April 1975. It has become easier to keep up with this large family of residency graduates since starting our residency Facebook page. Coming soon to the web—a new page to feature the many publications from our residents and preceptors—only a few of which could be listed in this newsletter due to space limitations. Besides sharing the activities and accomplishments of our team, social media has also brought some of the achievements of our graduates to light.

Special congratulations are due to:

Christina Graham (PGY1, 2010) who is President-elect of the Kansas Council of Health-system Pharmacy (KCHP)

Christopher Campbell (PGY1, 2015; PGY2 Peds, 2015) is the Vice Chair for the Vizient Pharmacy Network Pediatric Pharmacy Committee.

Our residency has had a broader impact because of former residents who are Residency Program Directors (RPD), including all three of our PGY2 RPD, who either came back (Amber Bradley Clemmons, Christie Forehand) or stayed in Augusta (Kelley Norris). Graduates who are current Program Directors at other facilities include: Lucy Carter Crosby (2005) at Greenville Health System in Greenville, South Carolina and Christina Graham (2010) PGY1 RPD at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Lawrence, KS. Graduates who are full time faculty at Colleges of Pharmacy include Gin Fleming, Trisha Brannan and Amber Clemmons at UGA, Rachael McCaleb at UAMS (Arkansas), and Chris Campbell at UFL. Even more remarkable, essentially all of our graduates are involved precepting residents and/or pharmacy students.

Graduates—please share your accomplishments, so they can be featured in future newsletters!

Amber Clemmons, PGY2 Oncology Director:
As we entered our seventh year of the PGY2 Oncology program, we reflect back on the amazing work our graduates have accomplished. Most recently, last year’s resident Ben Andrick was awarded the 2017 Best Trainee Poster at HOPA. We also just completed enrollment in the prospective FOND-O clinical trial which was initiated by our 2015-16 resident Julienne Orr. Our residents have collectively published 14 peer-reviewed articles from their residency years! Our current resident, Morgan Gwynn, has already completed her journal club, pharmacy grand rounds and ADR physician lectures, and enrolled over twenty patients on her prospective study entitled “Immune-Mediated Adverse Events After the Influenza Vaccine in Cancer Patients Receiving Immunotherapy.” The hematology/oncology preceptors have also been very busy as highlighted by their various publications and presentations – too many to list here! This year our program expanded into the solid tumor clinics with our new preceptor, Katherine Saunders, who completed her residency training at Grady and subsequently the University of Wisconsin. We look forward to recruiting another excellent resident to continue our tradition of quality patient care, research, and teaching for next year.

Kelley Norris, PGY2 Pediatric Director:
The pediatric team was very excited to expand the PGY2 Pediatric residency program with two residents this year! Paige Watkins, one of our former AU Medical Center PGY1 residents, stayed with us to complete her PGY2 training. Paige is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan and earned her PharmD at Butler University’s College of Pharmacy in Indianapolis, Indiana. Her interests include both pediatric and neonatal critical care. Paige is serving as our Chief Pharmacy Resident and provides outstanding leadership to our PGY1 residents. Our pediatric team had the honor of welcoming Alicia Sanchez as our second PGY2 Pediatric resident. Alicia completed her B.S. in Biochemistry from Middle Tennessee State University and earned her PharmD at University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy in Memphis, TN. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis, TN. Alicia’s interest are pediatric critical care medicine and pediatric emergency medicine. Paige and Alicia are finalizing their research projects in the pediatric cardiothoracic surgery population. They are both wonderful additions to the pediatric team. Next year we look forward to one of our PGY1 residents, Paul Bauman, joining the pediatric team as the PGY2 pediatric resident for the 2018-2019 year.

Christy Forehand, PGY2 Critical Care Director:
I am both honored and excited to be back in Augusta and serve as the RPD for the PGY2 Critical Care program. Great things are happening with the Critical Care Group this year! We said goodbye to a couple of folks, but I’m thrilled with our new team. Ellen Huang, a recent PGY2 critical care graduate from UNC, joined the team in August and is practicing in the Surgical ICU and Cardiac ICU. This fall, Andrea Sikora Newsome transitioned from a clinical specialist at AU Medical Center to a clinical assistant professor at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy in Augusta. Her practice site is the Cardiac ICU. Tim Robinson has taken over the reigns as the Critical Care Pharmacy Supervisor and will be a great leader for our group. Other exciting news, Ah Hyun Jun obtained her BCCCP this Spring and Jody Rocker is currently serving as the Central Savannah River District Director for GSHP – woo hoo! While it was decided that the critical care residency would take the 2017-2018 residency year off to regroup, we are getting ready and eager for next year! One of our outstanding PGY1 residents, Lindsey Sellers, has early committed with our program for the 2018-2019 residency year. With all of the changes we have had in our group this year, I am thrilled and optimistic about our future!