

**ASHP-Accredited PGY2 Residency in Geriatric Pharmacy Practice**  
**Program Director: Amie Taggart Blaszczyk, Pharm.D., BCGP, BCPS, FASCP**  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy &  
North Texas Veterans Health Care System  
Dallas, Texas

## **Purpose:**

PGY2 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and PGY1 pharmacy residency programs to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists in specialized areas of practice. PGY2 residencies provide residents with opportunities to function independently as practitioners by conceptualizing and integrating accumulated experience and knowledge and incorporating both into the provision of patient care or other advanced practice settings. Residents who successfully complete an accredited PGY2 pharmacy residency are prepared for advanced patient care, academic, or other specialized positions, along with board certification, if available.

## **Philosophy:**

The Geriatric Pharmacotherapy PGY2 program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy Dallas/Ft. Worth Regional Campus is designed to produce practitioners who exhibit excellence in pharmaceutical care in the geriatric population. The residency provides the environment necessary to achieve the knowledge and skills needed to care for older adults with a wide range of disease states. The program will foster the development of an independent, versatile practitioner. The program is also designed to produce well rounded, independent professionals through experiences in teaching, research, and professional activities.

## **Program Goals:**

- **Practice Excellence**
  - Develop a mastery of knowledge base in Geriatric pharmacotherapy
  - Develop solid geriatric patient care skills in both acute and chronic care settings
  - Develop a sound understanding of pharmacy practice management
  - Establish oneself as an integral member of a health care team
- **Scholastic Excellence**
  - Demonstrate proficiency in teaching in both didactic and small group learning environments
  - Develop effective precepting skills
  - Generate new knowledge in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy
  - Interpret and disseminate knowledge in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy
- **Individual Excellence**
  - Develop a system of self assessment and development
  - Demonstrate exemplary verbal and written communication skills
  - Utilize a system for balancing multiple work-related and personal responsibilities
  - Understand the importance of professionalism through participation in pharmacy

For additional information, please refer to the *ASHP Required Competency Areas, Goals, and Objectives for Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2) Geriatric Pharmacy Residencies*

## **Program Activities:**

### **Residency Learning Experiences**

#### **Required Longitudinal:**

Long-term Care Patient Management  
Community Outreach  
Research Project Development  
Teaching Experiences

#### **Required Block:**

Geriatric Psychiatry (6 weeks)  
Inpatient Rehab Service (6 weeks)  
Pain Management/Palliative Care/Hospice (6 weeks)  
Home-based Primary Care (6 weeks)  
Long-term Care Consulting (12 weeks)

#### **Elective Opportunities:**

Alzheimer's Clinic (6 weeks)  
Geriatrics Assessment Clinic (6 weeks)  
National organization management (1 – 2 weeks)

*\*\*Other elective learning opportunities can be designed based on the resident's interests.\*\**

## **Teaching Activities:**

Residents are appointed as Assistant Instructors with Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy. Teaching activities for residents are designed to complement practice activities while allowing the resident to experience a variety of teaching methods.

### **Clinician-Educator Training Program**

Structured throughout the residency, this program provides training for residents who are interested in developing their academic skills. The major goal of the training program is to supplement a strong clinical background with the skills needed to become a successful educator. The program includes didactic and web-based teaching models, mentored facilitator training for small-group problem-based learning, and precepting of third and fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy students. Residents also receive instruction in grant writing, statistics, and clinical trial design; submit a project proposal to the institutional review board; and collect, interpret, and publish their results. Additional activities to enhance discovery, integration, and writing skills are described. The program also includes innovative discussion topics based upon needs previously identified by new faculty members. Examples include handling difficult students, writing test questions, developing consistent evaluation methods and balancing life outside of career.

### **Didactic Teaching**

One to two hours of formal didactic lecturing within the school of pharmacy programs is required of the PGY2 resident. The courses that are to be taught will be based on availability and resident interest.

## **Problem-Based Learning**

One semester equivalent as a group facilitator in Clinical Correlations (P3 class). The Clinical Correlations course is an application-based course which serves to solidify classroom knowledge in an active learning environment. It is designed to be a problem-based learning experience and the facilitator's role is not to teach the students, but rather to facilitate their learning. During the semester, this course meets twice a week for two hours.

## **Experiential Teaching**

Clerkship teaching (involving both P3 and P4 students) is integrated into the resident practice model. Early in the program, the resident will observe faculty clerkship preceptors and become integrated into various aspects of clerkship teaching. Within the residency program, residents have the opportunity to independently precept clerkship students.

## **Additional Activities:**

### **Residency Research Project:**

Residency Project: Residents will complete one research project per year. Residents may choose any type of research project or quality improvement program, provided that the project:

- 1) includes generation of original data;
- 2) is suitable for publication or presentation at a national pharmacy meeting;
- 3) can reasonably be completed within the residency year.

### **Medication-use Evaluation**

Residents are required to complete at least one medication-use evaluation during the residency year.

### **Manuscript Preparation**

Residents are required to submit one manuscript per year for publication in a refereed journal.

### **Southwestern Leadership Conference (ALCALDE)**

Residents participate in this regional residents meeting, also known as ALCALDE, in the Spring. Residents have the opportunity to present their project results for evaluation. It is also a great opportunity to interact with residents from other programs throughout the region.

### **Research Days**

Each Spring, TTUHSC holds Research Days in Amarillo. This invited conference is another opportunity for the resident to showcase their residency research project, and holds the potential of cash and other prizes for Best Poster, Best Platform and Best Research.

## Program Leadership:



**Amie Taggart Blaszczyk, Pharm.D., BCGP, BCPS, FASCP**  
Associate Professor and Division Head – Geriatrics & Pediatrics  
PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Residency Director

Dr. Blaszczyk is an Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice specializing in the unique pharmacotherapeutic needs of older individuals. She is also Division Head of Geriatrics & Pediatrics, given the priority of geriatrics and pediatrics education at Texas Tech. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as well as a Specialty Residency in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, Maryland. She earned her Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) certification in November 2005 and became a Fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists in December 2006. She earned her BCPS in 2007.

Dr. Blaszczyk currently practices in geriatrics in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with Advanced Healthcare Solutions, a nursing home corporation responsible for ~40 long-term care facilities and over 4000 lives across the state of Texas. Her primary focus is on research and outcomes within this practice. She also participates in community outreach, speaking to older individuals on varied topics, throughout the DFW Metroplex. For her educational endeavors with the North Texas American Parkinson Disease Association, Dr. Blaszczyk won the chapter's Marvin Marks Volunteer of the Year Award in 2009, and the ASCP Leadership in Education Award in 2010. She was also the recipient of the 2018 Armon Neel Senior Care Pharmacist award through ASCP for her commitment to senior care pharmacy practice.

Dr. Blaszczyk developed the Advanced Geriatrics elective course for the School of Pharmacy, and continues to innovate in the area of geriatric education, most recently with her jellybean polypharmacy simulation and its impact on empathy in 3<sup>rd</sup> year pharmacy students. She is the author of several peer-reviewed manuscripts, as well as the Central Nervous System chapter in *Fundamentals of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy*. Her research interests include neurodegenerative diseases affecting older individuals, senior education and the impact of a clinical pharmacist working in the long-term care setting.

With regard to service, Dr. Blaszczyk is an active member of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, and has served on several important national committees in these organizations, including ASHP's Council on Therapeutics and ASCP's Pharmacy Educators & Research Council. She the past-president of the Texas chapter of ASCP. She co-developed the BCGP prep course for ASHP, and continues to serve as a content matter expert and consultant for all BCGP programming for ASHP. She has also served on the Editorial Review Board of *The Consultant Pharmacist/The Senior Care Pharmacist* since graduating from residency, and will soon be the co-host of the Senior Care Pharmacist Radio podcast.

## Preceptors:



**Scott Blaszczyk, Pharm.D., BCGP**  
Director of Consultant Pharmacists  
Advanced Healthcare Solutions, LLC

Dr. Blaszczyk is the Director of Consultant Pharmacists for Advanced Healthcare Solutions, LLC, a long-term care company serving over 4000 lives across the state of Texas. He is the consultant pharmacist of record for 8 homes, oversees a team of 3 other consultant pharmacists and serves as the liaison for consulting to the corporate office. He is a 2002 graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and was a community pharmacist with CVS/Caremark for 12 years before joining AHS in 2014. He has been board-certified in geriatrics since 2015, and currently serves on the Texas Medicaid DUR Board.



**Kalin Clifford, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP**  
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice - Geriatrics

Dr. Clifford is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Division of Geriatrics at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in Dallas, Texas. He currently teaches in Clinical Correlations series, Advanced Geriatrics and Advanced Infectious Disease electives, and Grand Rounds courses. His current practice site is within the North Texas Veterans Affairs Hospital within the Community Living Center (CLC-A), a sub-acute rehab facility. Dr. Clifford also precepts students on the required Geriatric Clerkship rotation during their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) year. Prior to beginning his career at Texas Tech, Dr. Clifford received his degree from Butler University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2011. He also completed a PGY-1 in Pharmacy Practice from Columbus Regional Hospital in Columbus, Indiana in 2012 and a PGY-2 in Geriatric Pharmacy Practice from the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, Maryland in 2013. He also became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist in 2014 and Board Certified Geriatrics Pharmacist in 2016. His research interests include geriatric infectious diseases, geriatric cardiology, geriatric nephrology, and outcomes post-hospitalizations due to infectious diseases and surgery.



**Nakia Duncan, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP**  
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice - Geriatrics

Dr. Duncan is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice specializing in geriatric pharmacotherapy. She currently practices with UT Southwestern Medical Center's Palliative Care service. She is responsible for inpatient rounding, outpatient palliative care visits, transitions of care, and opioid stewardship.

Dr. Duncan earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. Dr. Duncan has since completed a pharmacy practice residency at Xavier University College of Pharmacy in New Orleans, Louisiana, as well as a Specialty Residency in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, Maryland. Completed an advanced pain/palliative care traineeship in 2012, earned BCGP in 2013, and BCPS in 2016. She actively participates in professional societies including the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, and American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Her research interests include pain management, palliative care, hospice, transitions of care and opioid stewardship within the older adult population.



**Brittany Johansen, Pharm.D.**  
Advanced Practice Pharmacist, Geriatrics  
VA North Texas Health Care System

Dr. Johansen is an Outpatient Clinical Pharmacist with the Home Based Primary Care program at the Dallas VA Medical Center. She is originally from Austin, but graduated from the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy as a Doctor of Pharmacy in 2006. She then completed an ASHP accredited Pharmacy PGY1 Residency at the Dallas VA Medical Center & Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in 2007. Her practice interests include Geriatrics, Ambulatory Care and Mental Health. Dr. Johansen is appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy and precepts pharmacy students in their 4th professional year, along with PGY1s from the Dallas VA on their Geriatrics learning experience and PGY2s specializing in Geriatrics.



**Monica Mathys, Pharm.D., BCGP, BCPP**

Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice Specializing in Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy

Dr. Monica Mathys is an associate professor for Texas Tech School of Pharmacy. Her clinical practice site is the Dallas VA Medical Center where she serves as the clinical pharmacy specialist for the geriatric psychiatry team. Dr. Mathys is a faculty preceptor for third and fourth year students. She is also involved in the neurology and psychiatry courses, case studies, and grand rounds. Dr. Mathys received her Pharm.D. degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. After graduation, she completed a geriatric specialty residency at Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Mathys' research interests include geriatric and general neurology/psychiatry.

**Current Resident:**



**Sarah Visintainer, PharmD**

PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Resident

Sarah Visintainer is the current PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Resident at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island in May 2018. Following graduation, she completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Northeastern University - Harbor Health Services Elder Service Plan in Boston. She enjoys teaching pharmacy students and her current practice interests include transitions of care, chronic disease state management, and pain management.

## Past Residents

2018 – 2019



**Shelby Anderson, PharmD**  
Independent Pharmacy Consultant  
Dallas, TX

Shelby Anderson is currently working as a pharmacy consultant for Hospice Pharmacy Solutions, a hospice pharmacy benefits manager located in Dallas, TX. She is also working as a long-term care consultant pharmacist for homes around the DFW area. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Texas Tech in May 2017. Following graduation, she completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas before completing her PGY2 in Geriatrics. She enjoys teaching pharmacy students and her current practice interests include psychiatry, pain management, and palliative care.

2016 – 2017



**Jordan Light, PharmD, BCPS**  
Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist  
UTSW – Clements University Hospital  
Dallas, TX

Jordan Light is a clinical pharmacist at UTSW – Clements University Hospital in Dallas. She is currently working on the decentralized internal medicine team, and is also one of the “hospitalist” pharmacists that rounds with the geriatric and internal medicine multidisciplinary teaching teams. She also precepts P4 pharmacy students and PGY1 residents on their adult medicine/acute care learning experiences. Prior to completing her PGY2 in Geriatrics in 2017, she graduated from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in 2015, and then went on to complete her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in beautiful Boise, Idaho in 2016. Her practice interests include geriatric neurology, cardiology, pain management, and chronic kidney disease.

2015 – 2016



**Whitney Zentgraf, Pharm.D., BCGP**

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
Shenandoah University Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy  
Fairfax, Virginia

Whitney Zentgraf is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Shenandoah University School of Pharmacy on the Inova Center for Personalized Health Campus in Fairfax, Virginia. She coordinates and teaches in the Genal Medicine I and Special Populations courses for P2 and P3 students, respectively. Her practice site is located with Inova Medical Group working with the Transitional Services Management Team providing primary care to patients recently discharged from the hospital. Prior to completing her PGY-2 in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy, she received her Pharm.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014 and completed her PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency with Campbell University College of Pharmacy/East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. Her practice interests include reducing polypharmacy in older adults, pharmacist led chronic disease state management in older adults, and transitions of care.

2014 – 2015



**Belinda Hong Mang, Pharm.D., BCPS**

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist  
CareMore Health  
Fort Worth, TX

Belinda H. Mang, Pharm.D., BCPS is currently a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist for CareMore Health, an integrated primary care facility for a highly complex Medicaid population in Fort Worth, Texas. At CareMore Health, she provides transitions of care and chronic disease state management to ambulatory, home-based, assisted living, and nursing home patients. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Belmont University in 2013 and completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the North Texas Veterans Affairs Health Care System followed by a PGY-2 in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy at the Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy. Prior to joining CareMore, she was a Clinical Pharmacist specializing in transitions of care for Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas. Her passions include psychiatry, pain management, polypharmacy reduction, and systems improvement.

2013 – 2014



**Rebecca J. Mahan, Pharm.D., BCGP, BCACP**  
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice – Geriatrics  
Abilene, TX

Becky Mahan is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice, geriatrics division, for TTUHSC SOP at the Abilene campus. She maintains a clinical practice site at Hendrick Housecalls, the home health agency for Hendrick Medical Center, focused on improving patient safety through the care transitions process and in the home. In addition to precepting fourth year pharmacy students on their geriatric clerkship, she also takes pharmacy residents on their geriatric elective learning experience. Her practice interests include expanding the role of pharmacists in geriatrics outside of inpatient/long term care settings, evaluating ways to decrease polypharmacy, and advocating for caregivers. Prior to the Geriatric Pharmacotherapy residency, she received her Pharm.D. from Butler University in 2012. Upon graduation, she completed a PGY1 community practice residency with Penobscot Community Health Care in Bangor, ME.

2012 – 2013



**Courtney Duval, Pharm.D., BCACP**  
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice – Ambulatory Care  
Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy – Dallas/Fort Worth

Dr. Duval received her Pharm.D. from Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy. She completed a PGY1 residency in pharmacy practice at the North Texas VA Health Care System in Dallas, TX and then completed a PGY2 residency in Geriatrics at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in Dallas, TX. She is currently a member of the Pharmacy Practice department with Texas Tech School of Pharmacy and practices as a clinical pharmacy specialist at the Fort Worth VA outpatient clinic. Dr. Duval has practiced in home based primary care and transitional care settings prior to returning to Texas Tech School of Pharmacy. Her practice interests include polypharmacy reduction, quality of care among the geriatric population in the outpatient setting, and pain management.

2010 – 2011



**Scott Martin Vouri, Pharm.D., Ph.D., BCGP, FASCP, CPh**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy  
University of Florida – College of Pharmacy  
Assistant Director of Pharmacy Services  
University of Florida Health Physicians

Scott Martin Vouri, Pharm.D., Ph.D., BCGP, FASCP, CPh earned his Pharm.D. at Butler University in 2009, Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine in 2015, and PhD in Epidemiology at Saint Louis University in 2018. He completed a PGY-1 residency in Ambulatory Care at the Iowa City VA Medical Center in Iowa City, Iowa before completing the PGY-2 residency in Geriatrics at Texas Tech. Dr. Vouri was previously is an associate professor at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy until 2018 and served as a clinical pharmacist for the Older Adult Assessment Clinic at Washington University School of Medicine. He is currently an Assistant Professor at UF College of Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy and the Assistant Director of Pharmacy Services at UF Health Physicians. Dr. Vouri is the Director for the Fellowship in Healthcare Quality, Medication Safety, and Population Health and teaches in and co-ordinates the Patient Safety and Quality series. His research interests include pharmacoepidemiology, pharmaceutical health services research, inappropriate medication prescribing / deprescribing, geriatric medication use, and medication utilization following bariatric surgery. He is currently funded by the Claude D. Pepper Older American Independence Centers – Junior Scholars Program and previously served as Chair for the ACCP Geriatric PRN.

## **Information for Applicants:**

Qualifications: Residency applicants must have a Pharm.D. degree, be eligible for licensure in Texas, and be eligible for enrollment in Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy. A PGY-1 residency is also required.

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