

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency:

Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System and
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Program Director: Christyn Mullen-Lee, Pharm.D., BCACP



The ASHP-accredited PGY1 pharmacy residency training program is predicated on the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and abilities required for a well-rounded health-system pharmacy practice. The objective of the residency-training program is to prepare each individual pharmacist to face the challenges of their chosen areas of interest in contemporary health-system pharmacy practice. Clinical pharmacy practice areas of program strength include training in adult medicine, ambulatory care, geriatrics and pharmacoconomics. Residents who successfully complete an accredited PGY1 pharmacy residency are prepared for PGY2 specialty residencies and/or other patient care specialized positions.

General Description

The 12-month program is based upon a variety of monthly core, elective and longitudinal practice experiences designed to provide expertise and confidence in various areas of clinical pharmacy practice as delineated in the ASHP Residency Practice Standards. These include, but are not limited to, ambulatory care, acute care (critical and surgical care), adult medicine, geriatrics, infectious disease, drug information, anticoagulation, management, hematology/oncology, spinal cord injury mental health, research and rural health. The resident will complete five required rotations (including one rural rotation) as well as three elective rotations based on his/her interests and career goals.

Program Goals

Clinical

- Develop strategies for integrating into a multidisciplinary healthcare team
- Promote expertise in managing medication therapies in both acute and chronic settings
- Augment understanding of practice management at the institutional, regional, and national levels

Academic

- Interpret and disseminate clinical pharmacotherapy knowledge effectively
- Foster innovative and rewarding precepting strategies
- Provide teaching experiences in small group learning environments
- Generate new knowledge in pharmacotherapy through original research

Professional

- Cultivate techniques for self-assessment, goal setting, and career planning
- Demonstrate exemplary verbal and written communication skills
- Establish a personalized system for balancing multiple work-related responsibilities
- Recognize the importance of professional development through participation in pharmacy organization activities

Program Activities

The residency experiences consist of 5-week rotations in the fall and 6-week rotations in the spring. Additionally, some rotation experiences are designed to be longitudinal in nature and will last the duration of the residency year. The resident schedule will consist of 5 required rotations (including one rural or “off-site” rotation) and 3 elective rotations. All rotation experiences are completed at the Dallas/Fort Worth VA Medical Center (VAMC) and corresponding Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) unless otherwise noted below.

Required Rotations (Fall-5 weeks / Spring- 6 weeks)

*One of these rotations will be conducted “off-site” or in a rural setting

- Orientation
- Ambulatory Care
- Adult Medicine I
- Adult Medicine II
- Drug Information
- Geriatrics

Required Longitudinal Rotations

- Anticoagulation Clinic (1/2 day per week)
- Management (weekly meetings as well as Quality Improvement Project)
- Clinical Staffing
- Research

Elective On-site Rotations (5-6 weeks as scheduled)

- Cardiopulmonary Intensive Care Unit
- Hematology/Oncology
- Infectious Disease
- Mental Health (inpatient, outpatient, and specialized opportunities)
- Rural Health
- Surgical/Thoracic Intensive Care
- Management (Administrative Leadership)
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Any required rotation can be taken as an elective

Practice Experiences

- Rounding with health care professionals
- Practice-based projects
- Adverse drug reaction reporting (VA ADERS)
- Medication therapy management
- Education of health care professionals and precepting pharmacy students
- Pharmacokinetic consultations
- Participation in departmental and committee meetings
- Involvement in drug information services
- Clinical intervention documentations
- Participation in board certified pharmaceutical specialist reviews
- Opportunities with Texas Tech University Teaching Certificate Program

Residency Projects

Residents will complete one research project per year and one quality improvement 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 and presentation at a national pharmacy meeting;
- 3) can reasonably be completed within the residency year.

Teaching Activities

Residents are appointed as Assistant Instructors with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Pharmacy (SOP). Teaching activities for residents are designed to complement practice activities while allowing the resident to experience a variety of teaching methods. Residents will be required to demonstrate skills necessary to function in an academic setting by completing the following activities:

Clinician-Educator Residency Certificate Program

The Clinician Educator Training Program is a program to provide training for PGY1 and PGY2 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 learning objectives for this program are to develop a personalized teaching philosophy, create evaluable learning objectives and corresponding exam questions for a formal lecture, evaluate students fairly, and to discuss effective teaching methodologies for a given scenario. The program includes didactic and web-based teaching models, mentored facilitator training for small group problem-based learning, and precepting of third and/or fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy students. Residents also receive instruction in grant-writing, statistical analysis, and clinical trial design; submit a project proposal to the institutional review board; and collect, interpret, and publish their results. Additional activities are provided to enhance discovery, integration, and writing skills. The program also includes innovative discussion topics based on needs previously identified by new faculty members. While the program targets residents with an interest in academia, the skill sets gained through the Clinician-Educator Training Program are applicable to a broad range of career opportunities.

Didactic Teaching

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

Team-Based Learning/ Laboratory Based Learning

One semester equivalent as a group facilitator in team-based learning course. The course will consist of interactive activities, including but not limited to case-based exercises. Students will be given an in-class pre-assessment from the preparatory assignments. Students will utilize team-based learning to complete activities each session. It is designed to be a team-based learning experience and the facilitator's role is not to teach the students, but rather to facilitate their discussion. During the semester, the course meets twice a week for two hours. Based on resident preference or teaching needs of the institution, residents may have the opportunity to lead laboratory-based sessions along with experienced faculty members. Residents have the opportunity to participate in Immunizations and/or Patient Assessment Laboratory courses in the P1 year.

Experiential Teaching

Clerkship teaching (involving both P3 and P4 Pharm.D. 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. During the residency program, residents will independently precept clerkship students.

Other Teaching/Educational Opportunities

Residents will be required to provide in-services for pharmacy, nursing and medical services as required by preceptors. Residency topic discussions will be held on individual rotations as required and/or requested. Residents may also participate in the resident managed BCPS preparatory course.

Additional Activities

Resident Rounds

Residents will present a formal one-hour continuing education presentation to the VANTHCS pharmacy staff and TTUHSC faculty in the fall.

Presentations/Topic Discussions

Residents will participate in the resident driven presentations and/or topic discussions which can include literature review, case application, clinical pearls, etc. Residents will complete at least 6 formal presentations and 6 journal clubs throughout the year which will be assessed and evaluated by those in attendance as well as in PharmAcademic.

Manuscript Preparation

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

Southwestern Leadership Conference (ALCALDE)

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

Poster Presentation

Residents are also required to present a poster of their research project and, if offered, a podium presentation at Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy Research Days. In addition, a presentation at a national (preferred) or state professional meeting is encouraged.

Student/Resident Interviews

Residents may be asked to participate in the interview process for the PGY1 residency program and applicants to the Texas Tech UHSC School of Pharmacy or in the Mock Residency Interview process for students applying to residencies across the country.

Program Leadership



Christyn Mullen-Lee, PharmD, BCACP
Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
RPD PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program
Practice Site: VA North Texas Health Care System
Polk Annex Outpatient Clinic

Dr. Mullen-Lee is the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director and an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Dr. Mullen-Lee obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Howard University College of Pharmacy in Washington, D.C. She completed both her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency and her PGY2 Ambulatory Care Specialty Residency at the North Texas VA Medical Center and Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Mullen-Lee is currently board certified in ambulatory care and serves as an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at many schools and colleges of pharmacy across the state of Texas. Additionally, Dr. Mullen-Lee is white-belt, yellow-belt, green-belt, and black-belt certified in Lean Six Sigma quality improvement practices.

As an ambulatory care clinical pharmacy specialist, Dr. Mullen-Lee practices medication therapy management in the areas of diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, congestive heart failure, COPD, and tobacco cessation. Her research interests include hepatitis C, various aspects of diabetes management, and quality improvement. She is also currently the co-chair of the VA Interprofessional Preceptor Workgroup.

Dr. Mullen-Lee remains active in various professional organizations and is currently the Vice-President of the DFW Graduate Chapter of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc and an active member in ASHP. Previously, she has served as the Resident Representative, President-Elect, and President of the DFW chapter of ACCP and has held numerous leadership positions within Kappa Psi.



Lisa Nguyen, PharmD, BCGP, CDCEs
Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Co-Coordinator
Practice site: VA North Texas Health Care System
Garland VA Medical Center

Dr. Nguyen is a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Co-Coordinator and an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy. Dr. Nguyen completed an ASHP accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, OK and an ASHP accredited Geriatric Pharmacy Specialty Residency at Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, WV. She is a member of the American Geriatrics Society and the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. Her practice areas of interest include geriatrics, chronic disease management and research.

Kristen Backe, PharmD, BCPP
Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Co-Coordinator
Practice site: VA North Texas Health Care System

Dr. Kristen Backe is a board-certified Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) clinic at the VA North Texas Healthcare System. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. She then went on to complete a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at CoxHealth System in Springfield, Missouri, and a PGY2 Psychiatric Residency at Seton Healthcare/University of Texas at Austin before coming to the North Texas VA in Dallas in 2015. Dr. Backe is one of two clinical pharmacy specialists in the PC-MHI clinic where she practices medication therapy management for a variety of mental health disease states including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, insomnia, substance use disorder, schizophrenia and psychotic disorders, and bipolar disorder. She was honored to be recognized as a PGY1 Preceptor of the Year for 2016-17 and began her role as PGY1 Residency Program Co-Coordinator in July 2017. Dr. Backe is also a member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP).

Information for Applicants

Residency applicants must be U.S. citizens, have a Pharm.D. degree from an ACPE- accredited school of pharmacy, and be a licensed pharmacist in any state. Applications are only accepted through the Pharmacy Residency Centralized Application System (PhORCAS). Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, 3 letters of recommendation, curriculum vitae, official pharmacy school transcripts, and a completed application form by January 4th of the prospective residency year.

For more information, contact:

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