



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
VA North Texas Health Care System



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

School of Pharmacy

**ASHP Accredited  
Postgraduate Year Two (PGY-2)  
Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program  
VA North Texas Health Care System  
Dallas, Texas**

**Philosophy:**

The Postgraduate Year 2 (PGY2) Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program at VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) in Dallas, Texas is designed to produce well rounded clinical practitioners in Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy. The resident is exposed to a wide range of patient care settings intended to provide a solid knowledge base of infectious disease states and optimum use of anti-infective therapies. The primary goal of the program is to foster the development of an independent, knowledgeable, and versatile practitioner through experiences in teaching, research, and professional activities.

**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 managing each of the infectious disease states delineated in the ASHP Infectious Diseases PGY2 Residency Practice Standards. These include, but are not limited to osteomyelitis, endocarditis, meningitis, invasive fungal infections, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The resident may select any combination of on-site or off-site electives based on his/her interests and career goals.

**Program Goals:**

**Clinical**

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

**Academic**

- Interpret and disseminate knowledge in infectious diseases pharmacotherapy effectively
- Foster innovative and rewarding precepting strategies
- Provide teaching experiences in both didactic and small group learning environments
- Generate new knowledge in infectious diseases 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
- Understand the importance of professional development through pharmacy organization activities

## **Program Activities:**

### **Required Rotations/Experiences: (~70% time)**

- Orientation and IRB development
- Microbiology Laboratory
- Inpatient Infectious Diseases Consult Service
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Medical Intensive Care Unit
- Research

### **Longitudinal Required Rotations: (~10% time)**

- HIV Pharmacotherapy and/or Hepatitis C/Liver Clinic
- Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT)
- Antimicrobial Stewardship

### **Elective Rotation Options: (~20% time)**

- Drug Information and Pharmacoeconomics
- Hematology/Oncology
- PBM
- Psychiatry (recommended if interested in special populations such as HIV or Hepatitis C)
- Antimicrobial Stewardship (off-site)

### **Teaching Opportunities:**

Residents are appointed as Assistant Clinical Instructors with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy (TTUHSC). Teaching experiences for residents are designed to complement practice activities while allowing for multiple avenues of exposure.

- **Experiential Teaching** - Residents have the opportunity to independently precept IPPE (P3) and APPE (P4) clerkship students during the year.
- **Problem-Based Learning** - Residents have an opportunity to serve as a group facilitator for Case Studies II at TTUHSC. During the fall semester, this course meets twice weekly in two hour blocks. This course is built around student-directed exercises which focus on pharmaceutical care plans for specific patients. It is designed to be a problem-based learning experience in which students are exposed to an initial patient presentation and spend the next 3 to 4 sessions developing their patient care plan. Both pathophysiology and therapeutic knowledge are incorporated in these activities. The facilitator's role is not necessarily to directly instruct the students, but rather to facilitate their discussion.
- **Clinician-Educator Training Program** - Conducted throughout the residency year, this program provides training for residents who are interested in developing their academic skills. The 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 pharmacy students. Option to obtain a teaching certificate is available through TTUHSC. Residents also receive instruction on grant writing, statistics, and clinical trial design; submit a project proposal to the institutional review board (IRB); and collect, interpret, and publish their results. 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.

### **Residency Project:**

Residents complete one major project on a research topic of their choice provided it will:

- Generate original data
- Meet criteria for presentation at a national pharmacy meeting
- Culminate in a manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- Reasonably to be completed within the residency year

### **Additional Opportunities:**

- **ID Fellows Core Curriculum & Case Conference** - Weekly lecture series which includes seminars prepared by well-respected, local infectious diseases pharmacists and physicians.
- **Southwestern Leadership Conference (ALCALDE)** - Residents will participate in the regional residents meeting in the spring. Residents have the opportunity to present their project results for evaluation. It serves as an excellent opportunity to network with other residents from the region.

### **Salary and Benefits:**

The stipend for one year is approximately \$47,000. Benefits include 10 days of vacation, up to 10 days professional leave, sick leave, and health care benefit package. Based upon funding availability, partial support to attend one National and one Regional residency meeting may be available. Additionally, Texas has no state income tax!

### **Site Information:**

VANTHCS is the second largest VA in the country. With headquarters at Dallas VA Medical Center (VAMC), other facilities include Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, Fort Worth VA Outpatient Clinic, Tyler VA Primary Care Clinic, Plano VA Primary Care Clinic, one annex clinic, and five community-based outpatient clinic locations in Decatur, Denton, Granbury, Greenville and Sherman.

Primary and specialty care services are provided, including comprehensive and preventative care, Dermatology, Lipid Clinic, Diabetes Clinic, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Respiratory Therapy, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology, Neurology, Oncology, Rheumatology, Telerehinol, Dialysis unit, Interventional Cardiology, Emergency Department, advanced imaging services, Surgical/Thoracic/Medicine/Cardiology ICUs, inpatient/outpatient Mental Health

programs including domiciliary, work therapy, residential rehabilitation, and comprehensive homeless center, general and specialty surgery with robotics, urology, and bariatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, full pharmacy and laboratory services, Spinal Cord Injury Center, and Community Living Center with dedicated hospice unit.

Dallas VAMC serves as a major training site for a multitude of healthcare disciplines and is one of the main teaching hospitals for medical students, residents and fellows from the University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) Medical Center of Dallas. UTSW is currently ranked 5th in the nation for research and its medical residencies consistently rank in the top 10 according to U.S. News and World Report. Off-site training opportunities for pharmacy residents include UTSW Medical Center, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, and Baylor University Medical Center.

### **Information for Applicants:**

Residency applicants must have a Pharm.D. degree from an ACPE- accredited school of pharmacy and be a licensed pharmacist in any state. Completion of a PGY-1 residency is required. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, of the prospective residency year.

For more information, contact Dr. Tomasz Z. Jodlowski at [Tomasz.jodlowski@va.gov](mailto:Tomasz.jodlowski@va.gov)

### **Program Leadership:**

#### **Tomasz Z. Jodlowski, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), AAHIVP**

Dr. Jodlowski is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist focusing on Infectious Diseases/HIV/antimicrobial stewardship at VANTHCS in Dallas and holds an academic appointment as a volunteer faculty at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from St. John's University and completed a PGY1 residency at VA Harbor Healthcare System and a PGY2 in infectious diseases at the James A. Haley VA in Tampa, FL. Dr. Jodlowski served as an associate clinical professor at St. John's University rising to the rank of associate clinical professor with tenure. He returned to the VA Maine HCS in March 2015 as an infectious diseases/HIV/HCV pharmacist and transferred to VA North Texas HCS in July 2016. His professional interests include infectious disease topics, medication errors and research. Dr. Jodlowski had the opportunity to publish in a number of peer-reviewed journals and present his research at numerous conferences including the Infectious Diseases Society of America annual meeting.

#### **Susan Duquaine, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID)**

Dr. Duquaine is the Associate Chief of Pharmacy in Clinical Programs and Education as well as an Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacist at VANTHCS in Dallas. In addition to practice and administrative activities, she serves as an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at TTUHSC School of Pharmacy. Dr. Duquaine received her Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Florida and went on to complete an ASHP-accredited PGY2 pharmacy residency in critical care at VANTHCS. Dr. Duquaine's research and practice interests primarily focus on the inpatient management of infectious diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, and HIV pharmacotherapy.

**Marcus A. Kouma, Pharm.D., BCPS**

Dr. Kouma is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Infectious Diseases at VANTHCS in Dallas, practicing in multiple areas of ID, including inpatient consults, antimicrobial stewardship, hepatitis C, and HIV. After receiving his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, he went on to complete and ASHP-accredited Pharmacy Practice residency at the Mann–Grandstaff VAMC in Spokane, Washington and a PGY2 Infectious Diseases pharmacy residency at VANTHCS in Dallas. His primary interests are in the areas of antimicrobial resistance, dosing optimization, and antimicrobial stewardship.

**Steven Pass, Pharm.D., FCCM, FCCP, FASHP, BCPS**

Dr. Pass is a Professor and Dallas Campus Regional Dean at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy. Additionally, he is a practicing Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Cardiopulmonary ICU at Dallas VA Medical Center. He received his BS Pharm and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Kentucky, completed a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee and PGY2 critical care residency at University Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. His research interests include the use of antimicrobial agents in ventilator-associated pneumonia and sepsis as well as medications in advanced cardiac life support. Dr. Pass is active in several professional organizations, and was formally recognized for his work as a Fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

**Anjali Patel, Pharm.D., BCPS**

Dr. Patel is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in HIV and Hepatitis C at VANTHCS in Dallas. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The University of Texas at Austin. She completed her PGY1 pharmacy practice residency in 2010 and PGY2 ambulatory care residency in 2011 at the VANTHCS. After graduation, she worked for an independent pharmacy in Springfield, MO where she was responsible for developing multiple services including a specialty drugs program as well as a discharge medication counseling program. Dr. Patel is an affiliated clinical faculty at TTUHSC School of Pharmacy and the UT Austin College of Pharmacy. Her research and practice interests include HIV, Hepatitis C, diabetes, and lipid management.

**Jessica Guastadisegni, Pharm.D.**

Dr. Guastadisegni is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Hepatitis C at VANTHCS in Dallas. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Texas Southern University, completed a PGY1 residency at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, and finished with a PGY2 in infectious diseases at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston, Texas. Her areas of interest include HIV, Hepatitis C, antimicrobial resistance in immunocompromised patients, and antimicrobial stewardship.