
THE TECH TIMES

A Publication of the TTUHSC—School of Pharmacy Residency Programs



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

School of Pharmacy

The Tech Times is published quarterly for graduates of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy Residency Programs.

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<http://www.ttuhscc.edu/sop/residencies/>

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Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – School of Pharmacy Residency Program

The Graduate Pharmacy Education (Residency) Program at TTUHSC – SOP was established in 1997 and promotes excellence in patient care by providing education, development, and advanced training to practitioners, educators, and scholars. Residents support the SOP mission by expanding faculty practice and scholarship activities; as Assistant Instructors, residents are also actively integrated into the education of Pharm.D. students, serving as clerkship preceptors and small-group facilitators. The Residency Program, under the direction of Dr. Steven Pass, offers diverse training opportunities through 15 unique Pharmacy Practice and Specialty Resident programs located in Abilene, Amarillo, Dallas-Fort Worth and Lubbock. Presently, 29 residents are enrolled in this program. Since its formation, more than 250 residents have successfully completed residency training. Residents participate in a variety of learning opportunities as part of their program such as a longitudinal Clinician-Educator Teaching Certificate Program. Faculty members present monthly topics to residents related to teaching. This year the Teaching Certificate Program has been revised to provide more hands-on lecturing to the residents. Every resident interested in a teaching certificate will present an optional lecture to an audience of residents and pharmacists, who will then evaluate the residents' performance during the lecture and give constructive feedback on improvement areas. The program has been evolving each year to enhance learning opportunities and encourage residents to pursue academic positions upon completion of the program.

RESIDENCY COMMITTEES

During this past fall, nominations were taken for chief resident and committee positions. These positions are in place to serve the TTUHSC SOP residency class and provide opportunities for residents to get involved, keep in touch with everyone, and bolster camaraderie. Recently, our Social Committee set up a TTUHSC SOP Residency Facebook page.

Check it out here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1377568779211945/>

Chief Residents

- Dallas-Abilene:
 - [Belinda Hong](#)
 - [Courtney Givens](#)
- Amarillo-Lubbock:
 - [Corrie Lowe](#)

Community Service Committee

- Abilene:
 - [Kathy Tang and Jessica Garza](#)
- Amarillo
 - [Chair: Jessica Degiacomo](#)
 - Members: Shirley Yu
- Dallas:
 - [Chair: Joy Brodrick](#)
 - Members: Barakha Yadav, Elizabeth Lee, Kiya Harrison, and Sarah Woodard
- Lubbock:
 - [Chair: Nephy Samuel](#)
 - Members: Linda Nwachukwu

Social Committee

- [Chair: Norman Mang](#)
 - Members: Josh Koontz, Marcus Kouma, Lauren Adams, Rene Mani, Lillian May, Leslie Monye, Wesley Welchel, Kayla Vacera, Corrie Lowe Malphrus

Newsletter Committee

- [Chair: Maegan Patterson](#)
 - Members: Taryn Satterwhite, Han Li, Brian Spence, Katherine Kelly, Mary Liu, Belinda Hong, Courtney Givens

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) is an independent agency responsible for credentialing specialty pharmacy certification examinations. Currently BPS recognizes eight specialty areas of pharmacy including: Ambulatory Care, Critical Care (beginning 2015), Nuclear, Nutrition Support, Oncology, Pediatric (beginning 2015), Pharmacotherapy, and Psychiatric Pharmacy. Certification examinations for each of these specialties are offered annually. Board certification is an opportunity to demonstrate an individual's high level of expertise, knowledge, skills, and experience.

We would like to recognize the following residents and alumni for achieving board certification this past fall.

Rene Mani, Pharm.D., BCPS
Leslie Monye, Pharm.D., BCPS
Corrie Lowe, Pharm.D., BCPS
Shirley Yu, Pharm.D., BCPS
Megan Flinchum, Pharm.D., BCPS
Christyn Mullen, Pharm.D., BCACP
Brian Terrell, Pharm.D., BCACP
Becky Mahan, Pharm.D., CGP

PRESENTATIONS

Blaszczyk AT, **Hong BC**. Treating an Aging HIV Population. 2014 ASCP Annual Meeting. Orlando, FL. November 2014.

GOING TO THE CHAPEL



Taryn Satterwhite became engaged to Tyson in early November. They plan to wed in July of 2015!
(See left)

Jason asked **Lauren Adams** to marry him on Christmas Day! (See right)



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

LET THE MUSIC MOVE YOU!



Pictured above (left to right): Norman Mang and Marcus Kouma (back); Barakha Yadav, Elizabeth Lee, and Joy Brodrick (front)

This was the first annual *Let the Music Move You!* Health Fair at the Boys and Girls Club that was hosted by TT-ASP (APhA-ASP), Kappa Psi, and Texas Tech Pharmacy Pediatric Advocacy Group (TTPPAG). A few students from other schools around the DFW area also volunteered for the event. The event took place on Saturday, November 8th.

The goal of the health fair was to raise awareness for childhood obesity while offering a fun and interactive environment for the kids. Some of the activities offered to adults and children included flu shots, health screenings, education for kids on health, and a fitness dance competition!

As residents, we participated in the event by precepting students and conducting some of the screenings and education if needed. We also answered questions about residency and pharmacy school for many pharmacy and pre-pharmacy students who attended the fair.

-Barakha Yadav, Pharm.D.

RESIDENT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Les Covington, Pharm.D., BCPS

Q: Please include a brief bio that includes your practice setting.

A: I went to Texas Tech School of Pharmacy for pharmacy school and completed residency training there as well. During my last year of residency, I accepted an offer to join the faculty in the Geriatrics Division on the Amarillo campus. My practice site is the Texas Tech Family Medicine clinic where I see patients for chronic disease management. We also conduct annual wellness visit for Medicare beneficiaries and participate in an interprofessional, comprehensive geriatric assessment clinic.

Q: Where did you complete your residency training?

A: PGY-1 and PGY-2 Pharmacotherapy Residency at TTUHSC School of Pharmacy in Amarillo

Q: What were the top 3 factors you considered when deciding to pursue residency training?

A: Location, experiences/rotations available in the program that would allow me to gain knowledge in my area of interest, and experience of program preceptors

Q: What was the most rewarding/unique experience you had as a resident?

A: I really enjoyed building relationships with my co-residents, getting to know them and their families. An unexpected rewarding experience was discovery how much I enjoyed teaching students on clerkships and in problem-based learning.

Q: What advice would you give to a current pharmacy student who is unsure if they should pursue residency training?

A: Think about what you want to do in your career, maybe not immediately by within the first 5 years after graduation. Will you realistically be able to obtain that goal without residency training? If not, then start preparing yourself now for the program that will get you to where you want to be.

Q: How do you feel that residency training has impacted your career path thus far?

A: Immensely. Without a doubt, I would not be doing what I am doing now without residency training.

RESIDENT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer T. Gunter, Pharm.D., BCPS

Q: Please include a brief bio that includes your practice setting.

A: Jennifer Gunter, Pharm.D. is a Drug Information Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) based in Dallas where she also practices as a clinician in the Lipid Clinic. Dr. Gunter earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 2006 where she had previously also received Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology as well as Clinical Laboratory Science. She went on to complete an ASHP accredited Pharmacy practice Residency at Veterans Affairs North Texas Healthcare System and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in Dallas, Texas and obtained Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2007. Dr. Gunter was selected a VANTHCS Preceptor of the Year by the 2012-13 VANTHCS PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency Class. She is a member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Her areas of interests include formulary management, hyperlipidemia, endocrinology and metabolic disorders.

Q: Where did you complete your residency training?

A: Pharmacy Practice Residency at VA North Texas Healthcare system and TTUHSC School of Pharmacy

Q: What were the top 3 factors you considered when deciding to pursue residency training?

A: A desire for a more hands on approach to patient care and partnering with patient and provider in therapy decision making. Ability to choose from a wide variety of career opportunities that residency training afforded. The potential for more flexible work schedule to achieve a balanced personal and professional life.

Q: What was the most rewarding/unique experience you had as a resident?

A: The yearlong longitudinal rotation in the VANTHCS Anticoagulation Clinic provided a unique opportunity to truly develop a relationship with patients to see the fruits of your labor over time. It was the first real taste of what that pharmacist/patient partnership could look like and the importance of the pharmacist role in complete healthcare.

Q: What advice would you give to a current pharmacy student who is unsure if they should pursue residency training?

A: The knowledge and experience gained is truly invaluable. It allows for a smooth transition into the practitioner role while strengthening your knowledge base and honing your clinical decision making skills. The benefit of residency training is useful

even if the pharmacist ultimately decides to pursue a retail or non-clinical career path. The timing of residency training is unlikely to be less inconvenient or less a financial sacrifice than directly after graduation. There is no time like the present!

Q: How do you feel that residency training has impacted your career path thus far?

A: The practice setting I graduated believing was my area of interest was determined during residency to not be the right fit for me. It is unlikely that without completing a residency that I would have found a fondness for formulary management or the professional reward of being a drug information resource for my colleagues and other VANTHCS providers, patients, and staff. My position at VANTHCS has also provided the opportunity to work with nationally known physicians including Interventional Cardiologist, Dr. Subhash Banerjee. I was honored to participate in the research and publication of *“Effect of Concomitant Use of Clopidogrel and Proton Pump Inhibitors After Percutaneous Coronary Intervention”* in the American Journal of Cardiology in 2011.

RESIDENT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Chris Tawwater, Pharm.D., BCPS

Q: Please include a brief bio that includes your practice setting.

A: Chris Tawwater graduated with a Doctorate of Pharmacy from Texas Tech University Health Sciences SOP in May 2007. After graduation, he completed a two year accredited Pharmacotherapy Residency with an emphasis in critical care and acute care medicine at TTUHSC SOP in Amarillo, Texas, and subsequently became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. In July 2009, he joined the Adult Medicine Division at TTUHSC School of Pharmacy as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice. He practices as a clinical pharmacist in Critical Care and Adult Medicine at Abilene Regional Medical Center where he practices across all settings in the facility. He has created an anticoagulant service, antimicrobial stewardship program, numerous ordersets and polices for patient safety, and sits on a variety of hospital committees. He is currently focused on advancing ICU safety with a pharmacy-driven fluid management project and improving the rapid diagnosis and identification of infections.

Q: Where did you complete your residency training?

A: PGY-1 and PGY-2 Pharmacotherapy Residency at TTUHSC School of Pharmacy in Amarillo

Q: What were the top 3 factors you considered when deciding to pursue residency training?

A: 1) A desire to teach Pharm.D. Students in multiple settings and with a little more leeway than allowed by most clinical positions. 2) Gain a varied set of skills and experiences to help me start a clinical practice from scratch in a new hospital. 3) To ensure that my clinical training was accelerated and provided by some of the best practitioners around.

Q: What was the most rewarding/unique experience you had as a resident?

A: The local Rotary Club sponsors a pediatric diabetes camp in Palo Duro Canyon. I volunteered with Thom Parker, and was given charge of the 7-8 year old boys cabin. It was quite challenging to manage their personalities, schedules, diets, activities on top of their diabetes. There were roughly 45-50 fingersticks and insulin injections each day before we met for the evening to revise the insulin regimens, followed by midnight and 2am hypoglycemia checks. It was a great experience to work with the kids in some of their first times away from home and parents, and learn to carry out self-care. Despite the exhaustion and second thoughts about future parenthood, it was one of my most rewarding experiences as a resident.

Q: What advice would you give to a current pharmacy student who is unsure if they should pursue residency training?

A: Residency training is exciting, challenging, and an invaluable way to give yourself a foot up in the world. As our profession moves toward new practice models, such training allows you to take on new positions. The benefits far outweigh the perceived downsides of the workload and temporary decrease in pay.

Q: How do you feel that residency training has impacted your career path thus far?

A: Residency has provided me the experiences and skills to obtain my faculty position at the School of Pharmacy and set up a diverse practice site at Abilene Regional Medical Center. I could not have achieved these without my PGY1/PGY2 Pharmacotherapy residency in Amarillo.

Resident Collage

