

## Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2) Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency

NMS Number 685866

### Mission Statement

Upon completion of this residency program, the psychiatric clinical pharmacy specialist will be able to serve confidently and effectively as the psychiatric medication expert in both outpatient and inpatient settings. Residency graduates will function as integral members of interdisciplinary teams, caring for individuals with psychiatric and neurologic disorders, and will assume responsibility for patient-centered medication therapy. Through a wide variety of psychiatric, information technology, research and managerial experiences, the resident will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to be the psychiatric clinical pharmacy specialist at his or her health care organization, as well as a leader in psychiatric pharmacy.

### PRACTICE SETTINGS

The VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) is a 900 bed hospital and satellite outpatient clinic complex located in the greater San Francisco Bay area of California. The Palo Alto Division, located in the foothills of the Coast Range Mountains, is comprised of ambulatory care clinics and acute psychiatry, medicine, surgery, spinal cord injury/polytrauma, geriatric care, hospice and blind rehabilitation inpatient beds. The Menlo Park Division, located seven miles from Palo Alto, serves psychiatric, nursing home, respite and domiciliary patients. The Livermore Division, located forty miles east of Palo Alto, cares for subacute medicine and nursing home patients. Satellite clinics are located in San Jose, Monterey, Fremont, Livermore, Stockton, Modesto, Sonoma and Capitola. These clinics provide primary and selected specialty care services. The Health Care System is affiliated with Stanford University School of Medicine, and the Pharmacy Service has affiliations with The University of the Pacific, The University of Southern California and Touro University Schools of Pharmacy.

### RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

The VAPAHCS PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency provides training and experience in inpatient and outpatient psychiatric pharmacy practice. Emphasis is placed on direct patient care responsibilities, and residents also receive instruct management, education and research experience. Residents are provided with ample opportunities to teach in clinical clerkship and didactic settings.

### REQUIRED EXPERIENCES

#### ***Inpatient Psychiatry I (8 weeks)***

Located at the Palo Alto Campus, VAPAHCS houses a three unit, 60 bed, acute inpatient psychiatric service for both male and female Veterans. The resident will serve as the psychopharmacology expert to an interdisciplinary team consisting of psychiatrists, psychiatry residents, psychologists, psychology fellows, nurses, social workers and students. Daily tasks will include morning rounds with the treatment team, reviewing medication regimens for proper dosing, dose adjustments, medication schedule, route of administration and drug-drug interactions, as well as interpreting drug levels, assessing for adverse effects of medications and medication efficacy. The resident will be expected to make drug recommendations for psychiatric and medical management. Teaching opportunities

during this rotation include: leading pharmacy group for Veterans, serving as the primary preceptor to PGY1 pharmacy practice residents and pharmacy students, leading nursing in-services and providing patient discharge counseling. The goal for the rotation is to have the resident serve as the primary point of contact for psychiatric pharmacy services for one of the three inpatient units.

### ***Academic Detailing I (8 weeks)***

The resident will provide education on medication side effect monitoring and management, optimization of drug selection for mental health disorders, and practical information on how to overcome system barriers to accomplish change. The resident will also participate in administrative meetings and with policy development processes that influence educational programming. Activities will include: developing educational outreach detailing pieces, performing medication utilization reviews to identify areas for educational programming, participating in workgroups for developing drug use guidelines for mental health disorders, reviewing available educational tools and consensus recommendations for incorporation into detailing and in-servicing educational resources, conducting academic detailing educational outreach visits with mental health providers and reviewing cost-effectiveness information for recommendations in educational encounters.

### ***Geriatric Psychiatry (8 weeks)***

Located at the Menlo Park Division, the Community Living Center (CLC) is a 100 bed unit with patients admitted for long-term care, as well as for rehabilitation, long-term IV antibiotics, radiation/chemotherapy, palliative care/hospice and respite care. The CLC team is an interdisciplinary team composed of psychiatrists, geriatricians, palliative care providers, nurse practitioners and clinical social workers. The resident will gain experience in geriatric psychiatry and geriatric medicine through exposure to a diverse population of older Veterans with various psychiatric and neurologic disorders. The resident will perform medication reviews for the patients on his or her team, and recommend medication and monitoring changes by entering a progress note and attending the weekly team meeting. The resident is also responsible for answering consults and drug information questions, as well as providing patient and provider education.

### ***Inpatient PTSD Program (8 weeks)***

The PTSD program is located at the Menlo Park Division and is a 50 bed, inpatient treatment facility. The PTSD program interdisciplinary team includes psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and a nurse practitioner. The resident will gain experience managing patients with a primary diagnosis of PTSD, who require a prolonged inpatient stay. Primary responsibilities of the resident include rounding with the interdisciplinary team to design, recommend, monitor and evaluate patient-specific therapeutic regimens that incorporate the principles of evidence-based medicine.

### ***Substance Abuse/Addictions (One half day/week x 6 months)***

The resident will work in an outpatient addictions pharmacotherapy clinic along with an interdisciplinary team including psychiatrists, medical residents from Stanford University, social workers, a nurse practitioner and psychologists. This experience is offered as a longitudinal experience, as the clinic is only offered one half day/week. This will give the resident an opportunity to observe patients over time in order to gain an understanding of relapse prevention and the problems that arise while seeking sobriety. Activities will include: recommending medication adjustments, providing patient education in individual and group settings, and providing the clinical team with medication related information.

### ***Outpatient Mental Health Didactics (longitudinal)***

The mental health didactic rotation is a longitudinal learning experience, which will be completed monthly via telephone conferences. This rotation is designed to provide the pharmacy resident with a strong knowledge base of psychiatric disorders through monthly discussions, presentations, patient cases and journal clubs.

### ***Outpatient Mental Health Clinic (longitudinal)***

This rotation will provide the resident with the opportunity to function as the primary medication management provider for Veterans with mental health disorders at the San Jose Division. The resident will see patients one day per week, which will allow him or her to carry a panel of patients over the course of the year. A limited scope of practice will be required to manage patients in clinic. Activities will include: ordering medications and labs, entering referrals and consults, completing encounters, entering progress notes, providing patient education, and working collaboratively with an interdisciplinary team.

### ***Pharmacy Benefits Management (longitudinal)***

The resident will serve as a member of the Mental Health Task Force and the pharamcoeconomics team. This will provide the opportunity to function as a leader in psychiatric pharmacy and to gain experience in formulary management. Activities will include: completing drug use evaluations and medication reviews, presenting medication-related information to leaders throughout the VISN, reviewing guidelines and current practice standards to ensure they align, creating policies and restrictions to promote evidence-based treatment, creating drug use criteria, recommending formulary changes, recommending medication alternatives when drug shortages or conversions arise, adjudicating non-formulary requests, ensuring compliance with regional pharmacy benefits management mental health performance measures and monitors and collaborating with other mental health pharmacists throughout the VISN.

### ***Research (longitudinal)***

The resident will go through the training process required of all investigators within VAPAHCS, as well as serve as a mentor for PGY1 pharmacy practice residents. The resident will work with a project preceptor/principle investigator to develop a residency project, gain appropriate committee and IRB approvals (if applicable), execute the project, analyze findings, draw appropriate conclusions based on those findings, and present his or her project in multiple formats (e.g., platform presentation, poster presentation, manuscript of publishable quality).

### ***Clozapine Tracking Team (longitudinal)***

Composed of an interdisciplinary team of psychiatrists, clinical nurse specialists and clinical pharmacists, the Clozapine Tracking Team (CTT) is responsible for implementing the Clozapine Patient Management Protocol, which helps ensure the safe and appropriate use of clozapine within the VA facility. As an active member of the CTT, the resident will participate in the following activities: identifying patients who are appropriate for clozapine therapy, adjudicating and completing requests for clozapine treatment, completing, collecting and transmitting all necessary forms related to the use of clozapine to the National Clozapine Coordinating Center (NCCC), maintaining and using valid NCCC-assigned patient clozapine authorization numbers, completing bi-annual reviews of clozapine patients, adjudicating requests for changes in monitoring frequency, ensuring the proper ordering and dispensing of clozapine from the inpatient and outpatient pharmacies, and providing clozapine treatment education to staff and patients.

## **ELECTIVE EXPERIENCES**

### ***Mental Health Informatics (4 weeks)***

The resident will have the opportunity to learn how to write SQL code and build audit feedback tools, such as the Academic Detailing Mental Health Dashboard. The Mental Health dashboards are designed to provide actionable information to providers regarding important mental health treatment issues. The resident will help design and validate tools that will be used nationwide to promote evidence-based treatment of mental health disorders.

***Pain Management (4 weeks)***

The resident will be responsible for designing, implementing, assessing, monitoring and documenting therapeutic pain management plans utilizing the most effective, least toxic and most economical medication treatments in order to achieve positive patient centered outcomes. The resident will function as a mid-level provider in a general medicine clinic, pharmacy pain service and pain e-consult service, and will adjudicate pain non-formulary drug request consults. The resident will also be responsible for providing education to patients, caregivers and healthcare providers.

***Management/Pharmacoeconomics (4 weeks)***

The resident will participate in activities such as: evaluation of recent utilization trends and identification of targets for improvement, cost-saving initiative development and implementation, adjudication of non-formulary drug requests, didactics on pharmacoeconomics, outcomes research, provider profiling, academic detailing, and budget analysis. The resident will be required to attend pertinent meetings, present a pharmacoeconomics based journal club, and complete an average of 2-3 pharmacoeconomic and outcome projects.

***Ambulatory Care (4 weeks)***

The resident will be assigned to a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) and be responsible for managing patients with diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidemia. The residents will evaluate drug regimens for efficacy and adverse effects, make appropriate medication adjustments, evaluate adherence and order necessary laboratory tests. Teaching opportunities include precepting pharmacy students and providing education to patients, caregivers and staff.

***Internal Medicine (4 weeks)***

The resident will provide the patient care team with drug information and patient-specific medication recommendations with the goal of improving patient outcomes. Other activities include: participating in rounds, monitoring patient medication therapy, reporting adverse drug reactions, pharmacokinetic monitoring, order verification, medication reconciliation, and performing patient counseling. Teaching opportunities include health care staff in-services and precepting pharmacy students.

***Inpatient Psychiatry II (4 weeks)***

The resident will have the opportunity to add an additional 4 weeks to the required 8 week inpatient psychiatry experience if there is a particular interest in inpatient psychiatry.

***Academic Detailing II (4 weeks)***

The resident will have the opportunity to add an additional 4 weeks to the required 8 week academic detailing experience if there is a particular interest in education and academic detailing.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Duration: 12 months  
Number of positions: 1  
Application deadline: January 1, 2016  
Interview: On site preferred  
Start date: July 2016  
Stipend: \$52,709

**Benefits**

Vacation: 13 days/year  
Health & Dental Insurance  
Paid Educational Leave\*  
Free Parking  
Sick Leave: 13 days/year  
Federal Holiday Leave  
Lab Coats

**PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Resident 2015 - 2016**  
Deborah Pardo, Pharm.D. (deborah.pardo@va.gov)

## HOW TO APPLY

Our program participates in the ASHP PhORCAS system and National Matching Service (NMS Number 685866), and follows the rules associated with those processes. This residency program agrees that no person at this site will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any residency applicant.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### *Prior to Match*

1. Applicants must be a US Citizen or should be eligible for citizenship prior to March 1 of the year the residency is scheduled to start

### *Post Match*

1. Signed Resident Appointment Letter returned by the indicated deadline
2. Successfully pass a pre-employment physical exam
3. Pharmacist licensure, in at least one state, must be secured prior to the residency start date

## APPLICATION MATERIALS (submitted via PhORCAS)

1. A letter of intent stating why you are pursuing a residency position in our program (max. 1 page)
2. Current curriculum vitae
3. VA Form 10-2850D: "Application for Health Professions Trainees" **AND** US Government form OF-306: "Declaration for Federal Employment". These forms are available at <http://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>
4. Official school of pharmacy transcripts
5. Three letters of recommendation from individuals capable of commenting on your professional capabilities, including: academic ability, communication skills, behavioral attributes (leadership, initiative, dependability, ability to handle multiple tasks, etc.), clinical problem solving skills, an assessment of potential capability to perform research, and any other attributes which will assist us in assessing your ability to flourish and succeed in our program. All comments and information will be held in the strictest confidence. The program prefers letters from references, but will accept the ASHP Resident Recommendation form.

**Applications must be completed in PhORCAS no later than January 1, 2016.** Applications completed after January 1, 2016 will not be reviewed. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. The program will advise applicants with completed applications of their interview status (e.g., invite for interview or no interview) by February 19, 2016.

For more information:  
Dana Chiulli, Pharm.D., BCPP  
PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program Director  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health  
VA Palo Alto HCS, Pharmacy Service (119), 80 Great Oaks Blvd, San Jose, CA 95119  
[dana.chiulli@va.gov](mailto:dana.chiulli@va.gov) (preferred contact)  
Office: (408) 363-3000 x 77693  
[http://www.paloalto.va.gov/services/pharmacy/Pharm\\_Residency.asp](http://www.paloalto.va.gov/services/pharmacy/Pharm_Residency.asp)