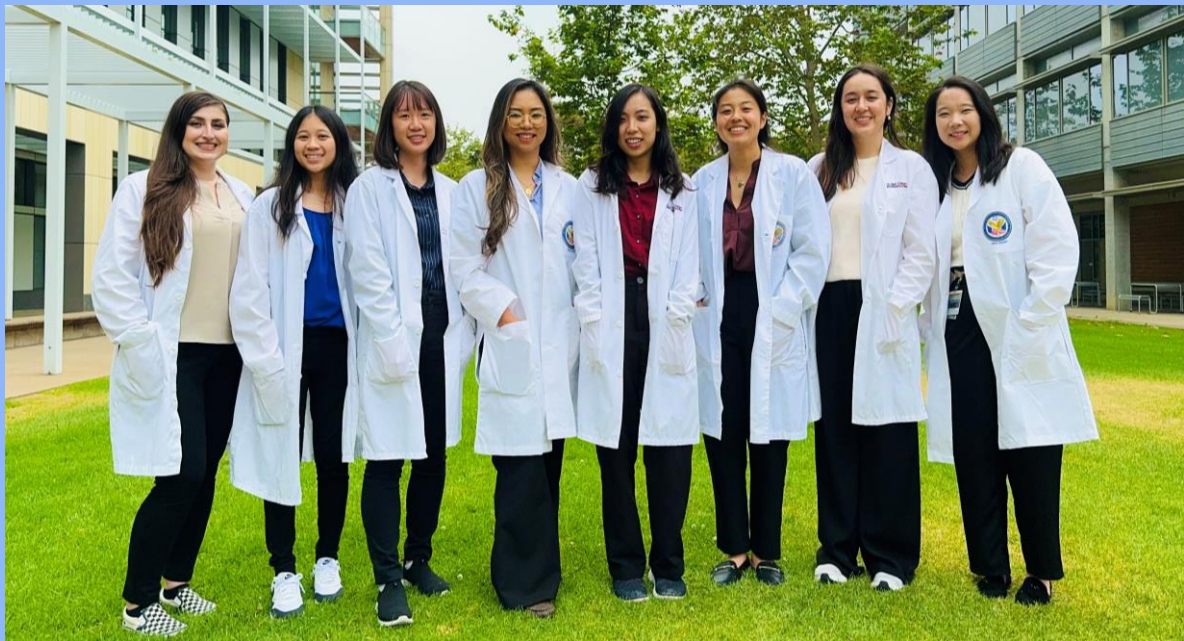




# VA SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

**Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center**



## PGY1 Pharmacy and Managed Care

2025–2026 Pharmacy Residency Programs

# Welcome

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[Click here to see an interactive map of our main hospital!](#)

Please fill out this form to RSVP to our virtual open house session: <https://forms.gle/zPDCtp2QJyRyfzg98>

## Recruitment Events

### [SoCal Residency and Fellowship Showcase - Yorba Linda Community Center:](#)

October 4, 2024: 3:00-6:30 PM PST

### [Federal Pharmacy Virtual Residency Showcase:](#)

October 9, 2024: 5:00-7:00 PM PST

### [UCSD Residency & Fellowship Showcase - Virtual:](#)

October 15, 2024: 5:00-9:00 PM PST

### [VA San Diego Open House - Virtual:](#)

October 23, 2024: 4:00-5:30 pm PST

November 20, 2024: 4:00-5:30 pm PST

### [ASHP Midyear Residency Showcase \(Booth 6421\)](#)

#### [- In-Person:](#)

December 10, 2024: 1-4PM CST

#### [- Virtual:](#)

December 18, 2024: TBD



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

VA San Diego  
Healthcare System

**Pharmacy Service (119)**

3350 La Jolla Village Drive  
San Diego, CA 92161

VOICE: (858) 642-3026 or (858) 642-3497

FAX: (858) 642-1608



# VA San Diego PHARMACY SERVICE

## Chief, Pharmacy Services



**Poonam P. Tzorfas,**  
Pharm.D., MBA, BCGP

[poonam.tzorfas@va.gov](mailto:poonam.tzorfas@va.gov)  
(858) 642-3026

## Program Director, PGY1 Pharmacy



**Jonathan P. Lacro,**  
Pharm.D., FASHP, BCPP

[jonathan.lacro@va.gov](mailto:jonathan.lacro@va.gov)  
(858) 642-3497

## Program Director, PGY1 Managed Care



**Hugh Nguyen, Pharm.D.**

[hugh.nguyen1@va.gov](mailto:hugh.nguyen1@va.gov)  
(858) 626- 8737

## Provision of Care

Our Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacists, Inpatient Clinical Pharmacists, and Clinical Pharmacy Practitioners provide a wide range of pharmaceutical care services to veterans in the inpatient and outpatient settings 24 hours a day, seven days a week

### 10 ASHP Accredited Residency Programs

6-8 PGY1 Positions	Residents	Established
Pharmacy Practice	5-7	1973
Managed Care (ASHP/AMCP)	1	2008
10-12 PGY2 Positions	Residents	Established
Ambulatory Care	1	1994
Critical Care	1	2007
Health-System Administration & Leadership	1	2009
Infectious Diseases	1	2007
Informatics	1	2009
Internal Medicine (new)	1	2024
Oncology	1	2006
Pain & Palliative Care	1	2018
Psychiatry	3	2007

**PGY2 programs offer early commitment (Internal and National)**

## OUR VALUES

**P** Patient-centric, Patience, Proactive. Professional  
**H** Helpful, Honest  
**A** Accessible  
**R** Responsible, Respectful  
**M** Meticulous, Mentor  
**A** Accurate  
**C** Caring, Clinical, Competent, Collaborative  
**Y** Because Veterans come first

## Staff & Preceptors

- **75 pharmacists** serve as preceptors to our resident trainees
- **Most have greater than 5 years of experience** serving as a preceptor to residents and many are board certified including: BCPS, BCACP, BCCP, BCCCP, BCGP, BCOP, BCIDP, and BCPP
- More than half possess **Scopes of Practices** which allow for **prescriptive authority**
- Our preceptors are committed to supporting the residency program and assisting residents throughout the year.
- We hope you will join us at the VA San Diego Healthcare System for your residency year. We look forward to receiving your application!

# PGY1 RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

*Information applies to both PGY1 pharmacy practice & managed care residents*

**PURPOSE STATEMENT:** PGY1 residency programs build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and outcomes to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives. Residents who successfully complete PGY1 residency programs will be skilled in diverse patient care, practice management, leadership, and education, and be prepared to provide patient care, seek board certification in pharmacotherapy (i.e., BCPS), and pursue advanced education and training opportunities including postgraduate year two (PGY2) residencies.

## PAY & BENEFITS

### 12-month appointment:

6/30/2025-6/26/2026

**Estimated PGY1 Stipend:** \$54,384

**Phase I Deadline:** Jan 2, 2024 11:59PM EST

### Benefits

- 13 days of Annual Leave and 13 days of Sick Leave
- Leave is earned at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks
- 11 federal holidays
- Health insurance options (vision/dental/life included)
- Newly renovated resident office (2023)
- White coats and scrubs
- Free parking off-site or eligible for transit benefits pass for public transportation
- Professional Meetings
- Authorized Absence (leave with pay) to attend pre-approved professional conferences
- Partial financial support for registration fees and travel expenses to attend selected meetings

## STAFFING AND/OR PER DIEM

**REQUIRED** "Staffing" or "Service" component is takes place during specific rotations within the 40 hour work week (see pages 6 & 7 for details)

**OPTIONAL** opportunities to work per diem inpatient or outpatient at VASD in *ADDITION* to rotation hours at an increased wage. Per diem is NOT guaranteed and restrictions may be placed on number of hours (case-by-case basis)

## PHARMACIST LICENSE REQUIREMENT

The resident must be licensed in any of the 50 states to practice as a pharmacist at VA San Diego Healthcare System within 120 days from the first day of their residency program. Noncompliance will result in termination from the program.

## RESIDENT PRECEPTING PROGRAM

- Our pharmacy residents participate in the teaching of approximately 30 Doctor of Pharmacy students from the University of the Pacific and University of California, San Diego Schools of Pharmacy
- Pharmacy Residents serve as a preceptor to APPE students during rotations by providing formal and informal teaching and mentoring
- Residents facilitate weekly conferences consisting of topic discussions and clinical case presentations

## SKILL DEVELOPMENT SERIES & TEACHING CERTIFICATE

- All pharmacy residents participate in a Skill Development Series, which includes regularly scheduled discussions of research-related topics such as study methodology, biostatistics, literature evaluation, individual residency research projects, and other contemporary issues relevant to healthcare professionals
- Teaching Certificate Program through the San Diego Pharmacy Residency Leaders Program (SDPRL) is required and consists of didactic seminars and assignments, the development of a personal teaching philosophy, and providing formal teaching experiences in clinical rotational settings

# VASD HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

## CORE VALUES

### I.C.A.R.E.

#### *Integrity:*

Act with high moral principle

#### *Commitment:*

Work diligently to serve veterans and other beneficiaries

#### *Advocacy:*

Be truly veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of veterans and other beneficiaries

#### *Respect:*

Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect

#### *Excellence:*

Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement

## VHA MISSION

Honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being

## VHA VISION

Continue to be the benchmark of excellence and value in health care and benefits by providing exemplary services that are both patient centered and evidence based

This care will be delivered by engaged, collaborative teams in an integrated environment that supports learning, discovery and continuous improvement

It will emphasize prevention and population health and contribute to the nation's well-being through education, research and service in national emergencies

**High-quality healthcare for 116,500+ Veterans in the San Diego and Imperial Valley counties in fiscal year 2022**

## Locations

- **Medical Center in La Jolla**
- **Seven community-based outpatient clinics:**
  - Chula Vista
  - Escondido
  - Imperial Valley
  - Kearny Mesa
  - Rio
  - Oceanside
  - Sorrento Valley
- **Residential rehabilitation treatment program: ASPIRE**

## Services

### **INPATIENT & OUTPATIENT MEDICAL**

*Primary care, allergy, oncology, chiropractic, dermatology, gynecology, traumatic brain injury, physical therapy, rheumatology, sleep medicine, spinal cord injury, etc.*

### **MENTAL HEALTH**

*Addiction and substance use care, behavioral health, military sexual trauma care, PTSD, suicide prevention*

### **GERIATRIC**

*Palliative and hospice care*

## Teaching environment

**1441**

Medical interns, residents, and fellows

**368**

Health professional trainees including **45 pharmacy residents and students** along with learners from nursing, dental, and dietetics

## Expected Outcomes:

Develop pharmacists who are:

- Prepared to provide cost-effective pharmacotherapy to adult and geriatric patients in acute and ambulatory care settings
- Proficient in communicating with and educating trainees, pharmacists, other health care providers, and the community on drug-related topics
- Competitive for additional post-graduate training (i.e. PGY2 or Fellowships)

## ROTATION STRUCTURE

### Required Rotations

- Pharmacy and Residency Orientation (2 weeks)
- Ambulatory Care (8 weeks)
- Administration (2 weeks)
- Formulary Consult (2 weeks)
- Formulary Project (12 weeks)
- Internal Medicine (8 weeks)
- Pharmacy Practice Management (44 weeks)
- Research (44 weeks)
- Service Enhancement Project (12 weeks)
- Teaching (36 weeks)

### Selective Required Rotations (ONE from each Pair)

- Cardiology **or** Cardiology (4 weeks)
- Psychiatry **or** Pain Management (4 weeks)

### Elective Rotations – Select 3 (4 weeks each)

- May include Selective options not chosen + any options listed below

## ELECTIVE ROTATIONS

*Descriptions of all electives found on pages 9-11*

Academia	Oncology
Academic Detailing	Nephrology
Cardiology	Pain Management
Critical care	Psychiatry
Emergency Department	Surgery
Geriatrics	Spinal Cord Injury
Infectious Disease	Transitions of Care
Informatics	

## STAFFING

- During certain rotations, residents may be required to “staff” on weekends and nights but total time commitment does not extend past usual 40-hour work week
  - ex. If you staff on 8 hours on Sunday would get Monday off
- **Internal Medicine:** At least 20 inpatient days (includes 2 weekend days)
- **Ambulatory Care:** At least 6 days in the Primary Care “PACT” Clinics and Outpatient Pharmacy
- Minimal staffing during **Critical Care, Psychiatry and Emergency Department**
- At least one additional weekend day scheduled for training

## AMBULATORY CARE ROTATION

### Required (days per week)

Primary Care (PACT) (2)	Staffing (1.5)
Project Time (1/2)	

### Elective Clinic Options (1.5 days per week)

Anticoagulation	Lipid
Cardiomyopathy	Oncology
Diabetes	Pain management
Dermatology	Renal / Anemia
Eye	Smoking cessation
Gout	Weight Loss (MOVE!)
Home Based Primary Care	Women’s Health

## COMPONENTS of Longitudinal Rotations

Teaching Certificate	Monthly Adverse Drug Reports	Formal Research Project	Pharmacy Practice Management	2 in-service education presentations
Formulary project (Drug class monograph or review)	2+ Presentations to Opioid Safety Committee	Research platform presentation to VISN 22/ Southern CA	Grand Rounds/Continuing Education Presentation	Participation in medical center committee, i.e., P&T or Medication Safety

## Expected Outcomes:

Develop pharmacists who are:

- Eligible for a position in a managed care setting such as: Formulary Management Pharmacist, Pharmacoeconomics Specialist, Data Analytics/Informatics Pharmacist, Prior Authorization Pharmacist, Drug Information Pharmacist etc.

Skilled in formulary management and development processes:

- Presenting at Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee/Medication Safety Committee/Pharmacoeconomic Workgroup
- Drafting guidance documents (conversions, protocols, criteria for use, monographs, etc.)
- Managing clinical programs, drug utilization reviews, cost-saving initiatives, and quality improvement projects
- Utilizing business informatics tools (i.e. SQL, R, Power BI, etc.) to drive formulary decisions
- Reviewing non-formulary and prior authorization consults

## ROTATION STRUCTURE

### Residency Rotations

- Orientation (2 weeks)
- Data Analytics (4 weeks)
- Formulary Management I & II (8 weeks)
- Leadership/Management (4 weeks)
- Pharmacoeconomics (4 weeks)
- Procurement (4 weeks)
- Internal Medicine (4 weeks)
- Ambulatory care (4 weeks)
  - See PGY1 Pharmacy for clinic options

### Elective Rotations – Select 2 (4 weeks each)

*Choose from options below + those listed on page 6*

- Academic Detailing
- Informatics
- VISN 22 Pharmacoeconomics

## STAFFING

- During certain rotations, residents may be required to “staff” on weekends and nights but total time commitment does not extend past usual 40-hour work week
  - ex. If you staff on 8 hours on Sunday would get Monday off
- **Internal Medicine:** At least 15 inpatient days (includes 2 weekend days)
- **Ambulatory Care:** At least 4 days in the Primary Care Clinics and Outpatient Pharmacy
- Additional staffing during selected electives

## LONGITUDINAL COMPONENTS

Teaching Certificate	Monthly Adverse Drug Reports	Formal Research Project	Quality Assurance/DUE	2 in-service education presentations
Formulary project (Drug class monograph or review)	2+ Presentations to Opioid Safety Committee	Research platform presentation to VISN 22/ Southern CA	Grand Rounds/Continuing Education Presentation	Participation in medical center committee, i.e., P&T or Medication Safety

**QUALITY ASSURANCE/DRUG USE EVALUATION:** During this longitudinal learning experience, the resident will become familiar with and receive a broad overview of health system pharmacy practice and medication safety issues associated with the pharmacy department. Residents will assess the medication use process and identify areas for improvement, demonstrate proficiency in pharmacy compliance with internal/external compliance requirements (e.g. Joint Commission, OIG), and conduct safety assessments, root cause analysis, and gap analysis.



# PGY1 PHARMACY PRACTICE REQUIRED ROTATIONS

Choose 1 from each row *(ex. Cardiology and pain)*

## CRITICAL CARE

The resident will develop and provide specialized pharmaceutical care to critically ill patients for the pulmonary/critical care team and to surgical patients for the cardiothoracic, general, vascular, and neurosurgical teams in a teaching environment. The resident will become familiar with evidenced-based critical care therapeutic interventions and monitoring technologies, will participate in a comprehensive pharmaceutical care practice model, and provide direct patient care. Daily responsibilities include attending interdisciplinary rounds, order verification and participating in resuscitation and stroke codes when needed.

## CARDIOLOGY

During this rotation, the pharmacy resident will learn the necessary skills, such as clinical practice, medication review, and professional communication, required for the specialized management of cardiovascular disorders. The resident will participate in the care of patients with cardiovascular disorders by rounding with the cardiology service, monitoring the progress of cardiology patients and Direct Observation Unit patients designated by the preceptor and intervening in their care as needed. The resident should also gain exposure to the non-pharmacological aspects in the care of the cardiovascular patient including devices (stents, pacemakers, defibrillators, etc.) as well as surgical and interventional techniques.

## PSYCHIATRY

Residents will participate in medication management for patients during interdisciplinary inpatient rounds and pharmacist-run ambulatory mental health clinics. Under the guidance of 7 board-certified psychiatric pharmacists, residents will gain experience with facilitating patient interviews, designing treatment plans, and collaborating on a multidisciplinary team. Common conditions managed in this rotation include depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders. Regular "Supervision" sessions, attended by PGY1 residents, PGY2 residents, and students on the psychiatry rotation allow for layered learning opportunities. During these sessions, trainees can discuss patient cases, practice interviewing techniques, present journal club articles, and discuss psychiatric pharmacy themed topics.

## PAIN MANAGEMENT

During the Pharmacy Pain Management rotation, the resident conducts telephone, telehealth and/or in person appointments for patients presenting with a combination of musculoskeletal, neuropathic and/or central chronic pain etiology. VASD Pain Management clinical pharmacists implement, adjust, and monitor medications for pain under a broad scope of practice. As a result, residents are encouraged to develop a high level of autonomy during pain medication management visits. Additional opportunities include observing pharmacist administered battlefield acupuncture and evaluating risk and benefits of buprenorphine use in the complex pain clinic. Throughout these experiences, residents build their knowledge and skillset related to therapeutic selection, alternative modalities for pain, motivational interviewing, and implementation of harm reduction strategies. By the end of the rotation, the resident will be able to implement and/or adjust pain medication management strategy and safe practices for patients with chronic pain.



# PGY1 PHARMACY PRACTICE REQUIRED ROTATIONS

## INTERNAL MEDICINE

The resident will provide pharmaceutical care to medicine and surgery patients with a variety of medical diseases in a general medical teaching environment. The resident will work with multidisciplinary teams consisting of physicians, nurses, dieticians, social workers and both inpatient/outpatient pharmacists/technicians to provide excellent patient care.

During the staffing component of the rotation, the resident will be trained for at least 3 weeks to demonstrate competency to independently staff the unit. The resident will become familiar to staff both inpatient and transitions of care when assigned.

During the rounding component of the rotation, the resident serves as the primary pharmacist on a medicine team and is responsible for order verification and other clinical duties including rounding with the medicine team.

## AMBULATORY CARE

Each week in the ambulatory care rotation, residents will have 2 days of PACT, 2 half-days of elective clinics, and 1.5 days of staffing. In all experiences, residents are directly involved in the development and monitoring of medication treatment regimens to improve health outcomes for Veterans. When trainees rotate through the PACT Pharmacy clinics, direct patient care opportunities under the pharmacist's broad scope of practice will provide experience in monitoring and managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, heart failure, and COPD. Through elective clinic opportunities, residents will gain exposure to specialized areas. Given the wide range of elective opportunities offered, please feel free to reach out for more information about any of our unique pharmacist-led clinics below!

Residents will also be "staffing" (during rotation hours) in the outpatient pharmacy or PACT Secondary clinic 1.5 days per week. This will include processing and verifying prescriptions orders, answering drug inquiries, and interacting with veterans and providers to optimize medication dispensing at VASD.

## ADMINISTRATION

Residents on the administration rotation will become familiar with the medication use system and gain exposure to pharmacy operations within different service lines for the department. Responsibilities include leading daily huddles to share announcements and addressing patient concerns. Administration allows you to understand the fundamentals of personnel management and the innerworkings of keeping operations afloat throughout our hospital.

## FORMULARY MANAGEMENT

The Formulary Management rotation will introduce the resident to the VA National Formulary and how it is managed at VASD. The resident will gain an understanding of several tools utilized to enforce formulary guidelines such as electronic health record (EHR) guidance, drug file management, non-formulary consult adjudication, and local Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) guidance.

# EXAMPLES OF ELECTIVE ROTATIONS

## PGY1 PHARMACY

*Choose 3 electives*

### SPINAL CORD INJURY (SCI)

During this elective rotation, residents will become familiar with common comorbidities of patients living with a SCI and will be able to recognize appropriate pharmaceutical treatment options within this unique Veteran population. The resident will have the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary rounds and provide recommendations to the team to optimize medication therapy management.

## PGY1 MANAGED CARE

*Choose 2 electives from any column*

### INFORMATICS

This rotation will provide exposure to the skills necessary for the practical application of pharmacy information and automated technology assessment principles in integrated healthcare systems. The trainee will be involved with every aspect in the management of pharmacy data applications, data support and analysis for pharmacy and medical center leadership, pharmacy technology assessment, implementation, and maintenance. The resident will learn to evaluate technology integration into clinical practice, assess the impact of informatics systems on clinician workflow and communicate effectively and professionally.

### EMERGENCY MEDICINE

This is an opportunity to learn in a fast-paced environment that provides both inpatient and outpatient experience. You will have the opportunity to counsel patients on their discharge medications, attend and participate in codes (mock and real), and learn to verify orders quickly. In addition, you will work closely with other healthcare providers and build communication and interprofessional skills.

### ACADEMIC DETAILING

The Academic Detailer provides education on innovative strategies to promote evidence-based practices, build relationships with healthcare teams, and resolve barriers to improve Veteran care. Academic Detailing involves reviewing evidence-based medicine, developing educational materials to deliver key messages, conducting outreach visits to VA providers, and socializing new Academic Detailing campaigns. Creativity is meshed with clinical knowledge to best serve as an integrative approach to improve patient care practices. The resident will garner techniques to develop interprofessional skills, problem-solving, effective communication, and dashboard utilization and management.

### ONCOLOGY

During the oncology rotation the PGY1 resident will gain experience in managing cancer patients across various practice settings (outpatient, inpatient, and infusion center). They will provide supportive care to patients receiving anticancer treatment as well as have many opportunities to interact with patients who are on both IV and oral anticancer therapies. The PGY1 resident attends daily inpatient rounds and is the pharmacy liaison between the inpatient oncology team and oncology pharmacy.

### VISN 22 PHARMACOECONOMICS

Pharmacoeconomics aims to identify, measure, and compare costs of drug products and pharmacy services. The resident will gain an appreciation of the economic relationships between drug distribution, storage, pricing and use. The resident will be involved in implementing services and best practices related to cost minimization, cost effectiveness, cost benefit, and cost utility analysis. By the end of the rotation, the resident will be able to recognize the role pharmacoeconomics plays in guiding decision-making and evaluating affordability and access of drug products for patients.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Residents will gain experience on the infectious diseases inpatient service managing various types of infections. Responsibilities and opportunities include following any hospitalized patients referred to the infectious diseases consult service, participating in daily interdisciplinary rounds, attending microbiology rounds, and attending teaching sessions organized by the UCSD ID department, topic discussions by PGY2 ID residents, and HIV case presentations by rotating pharmacy students.

# PGY1 MANAGED CARE REQUIRED ROTATIONS

## FORMULARY MANAGEMENT I

The Formulary Management I rotation will introduce the resident to the VA National Formulary and how it is managed at VASD. The resident will gain an understanding of several tools utilized to enforce formulary guidelines such as electronic health record (EHR) guidance, drug file management, non-formulary consult adjudication, and local Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) guidance. The resident will develop an understanding of how the National Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Office works with local sites to ensure formulary criteria are followed. The resident will gain experience adjudicating consults, answering formulary-related questions, presenting in-services to staff, coordinating P&T meetings, and assessing clinical literature and drug utilization to make data-driven formulary decisions. This rotation will provide the foundation knowledge for the Data Analytics, Formulary Management II, and Pharmacoeconomics rotations.

## FORMULARY MANAGEMENT II

The Formulary Management II rotation will build on formulary principles with an emphasis on biologic agents and specialty pharmaceuticals. The rotation will provide the resident with an advanced understanding of the clinical, economic, and operational facets involved in decision-making for specialty medications. The resident will gain an understanding of Specialty Distribution Medications, REMS compliance, and specialty drug ordering processes. During this rotation, the resident will have the opportunity to work on several projects, including a drug use evaluation (DUE), quality assurance/ improvement projects, journal club presentation, and updating REMS monitors. The resident will be expected to use data analysis tools and pharmacoeconomic principles to evaluate the organization's medication-use system and provide recommendations to optimize the utilization of specialty medications.

## DATA ANALYTICS

During this rotation, the resident will learn about database management use within VHA at the facility and national level. In collaboration with the VISN 17 PGY2 Outcomes & Analytics residency, the resident will learn basic to intermediate skills in information technology, programming (e.g. SQL), and business informatics programs (i.e. PowerBI) to be able to independently query national data from the VA Corporate Data Warehouse. The resident will learn to combine their background clinical knowledge with data querying and analysis principles to drive formulary and administrative decisions. Throughout the residency, the resident will have ample opportunities to develop problem solving and quality assurance skills when querying and validating data while also learning how to effectively communicate data with other healthcare professionals via written and verbal methods.

## PHARMACOECONOMICS

This rotation will provide practical experience in pharmacoeconomic principles at VA San Diego and will expand on the principles learned during the Data Analytics rotation. During this rotation, the resident will learn core pharmacoeconomic concepts such as Lost Opportunity Cost (LOC), cost variables, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA), and Budget Impact Analysis (BIA). The resident will learn how to implement and operationalize these concepts in a real-world hospital PBM setting by applying these principles to cost-saving performance measures and monitoring its progress longitudinally. In collaboration with an UCSD professor, the resident will also have didactic trainings on biostatistics and research design, and develop basic to intermediate skills in statistical software analysis (e.g. R, G\*Power) to help with the completion of their research project and manuscript.

## PROCUREMENT

The resident will learn about the procurement practices, budget management, contracting, and the budget revenue cycle at VASD. During this rotation, the resident will be able to apply background clinical knowledge and utilization management skills to assist in well-informed decision-making during drug shortages or backorders. The resident will work with the Formulary and Procurement Group to ensure procurement of the cost-effective products and develop contingency plans for shortages.

## INTERNAL MEDICINE, AMBULATORY CARE & ADMINISTRATION ([see page 9](#) for descriptions)

# MEET OUR PGY1 PHARMACY PRACTICE RESIDENTS



[kristina.catague@va.gov](mailto:kristina.catague@va.gov)

## Kristina Catague

WHY VASD | Availability of both acute and ambulatory care rotations that aligned with my interests!

BEST PART OF RESIDENCY | Passionate preceptors and instant friendships with my co-residents!

HOMETOWN: Sinajana, Guam (GU)

EDUCATION: University of Texas at Tyler Ben and Maytee Fich College of Pharmacy

HOBBIES: Tennis, karaoke, dance

INTERESTS: Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Ambulatory Care

## Jennifer Kim

WHY VASD | I chose VASD because I had a great experience as a student with amazing preceptors who were patient and trusted in me.

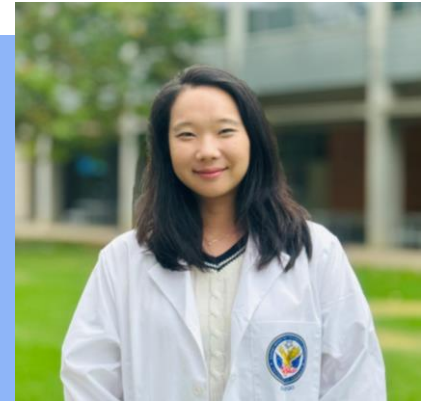
BEST PART OF RESIDENCY | Definitely my co-residents, but also the opportunities to try different aspects of pharmacy

HOMETOWN San Diego, CA

EDUCATION UCLA Biochemistry, UCSD SSPPS

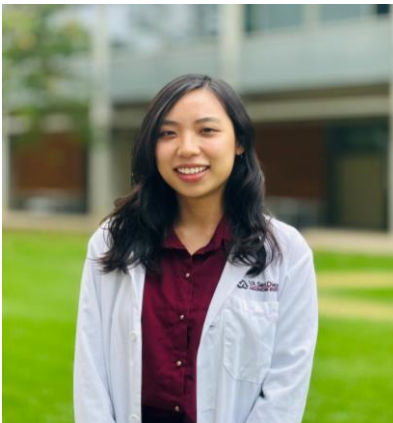
HOBBIES Tae Kwon Do, watching K-dramas

INTERESTS Pain Management, Infectious Disease



[jennifer.kim7@va.gov](mailto:jennifer.kim7@va.gov)

## Hien Le



[hien.le@va.gov](mailto:hien.le@va.gov)

WHY VASD | The robust pharmacy presence in both inpatient and outpatient settings along with the supportive preceptors I had as a student rotating through.

BEST PART OF RESIDENCY | Co-residents and learning from great preceptors

HOMETOWN: Sacramento, CA

EDUCATION: UC San Diego, SSPPS

HOBBIES: Trying new restaurants, karaoke, baking

INTERESTS: Oncology, Infectious Disease

## Jessica Le

WHY VASD | I chose VASD because of its wide range of learning opportunities. I was also drawn in by the strong involvement of pharmacists in patient care.

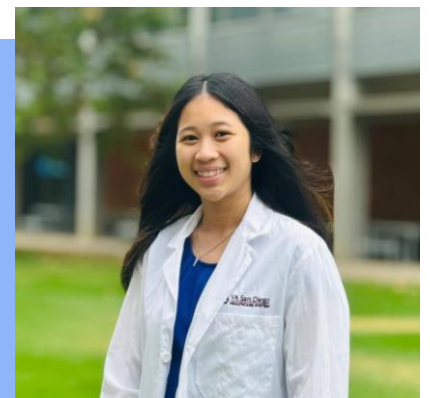
BEST PART OF RESIDENCY | Having supportive preceptors and co-residents you can rely on for help

HOMETOWN: Mililani, HI

EDUCATION: UOP Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy

HOBBIES: watching tv shows, listening to music

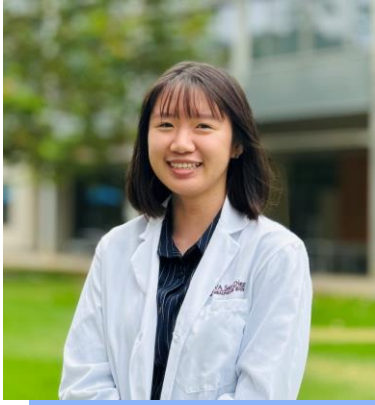
INTERESTS: Ambulatory Care, Internal Medicine, Admin



[jessica.le4@va.gov](mailto:jessica.le4@va.gov)



## PGY1 PHARMACY PRACTICE RESIDENTS



[yingyue.li@va.gov](mailto:yingyue.li@va.gov)

### Emily Li

**WHY VASD** | I was drawn in by the balance of acute care and ambulatory care rotations, as well as the large residency class.  
**BEST PART OF RESIDENCY** | Having amazing co-residents and learning cool new things every day!

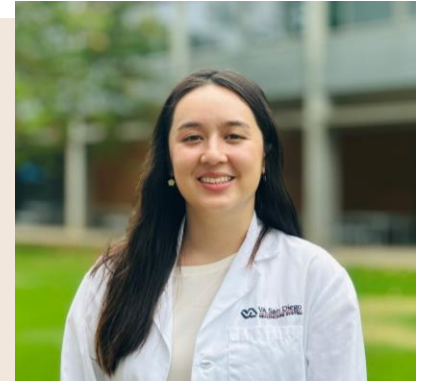
**HOMETOWN:** Salt Lake City, Utah

**EDUCATION:** University of Utah College of Pharmacy

**HOBBIES:** Writing, drawing, baking, running

**INTERESTS:** Ambulatory Care, Geriatrics

### Allison Nguyen



[allison.nguyen@va.gov](mailto:allison.nguyen@va.gov)

**WHY VASD** | The opportunity to become a well-rounded pharmacist with the balance and great variety of learning rotations.  
**BEST PART OF RESIDENCY** | Great involvement with patient care and working with my co-residents.

**HOMETOWN:** West Covina, CA

**EDUCATION:** Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona

**HOBBIES:** Swimming, Crochet, Attending Concerts

**INTERESTS:** Psychiatry, Ambulatory Care, Academia



[marina.rosales2@va.gov](mailto:marina.rosales2@va.gov)

### Marina Rosales

**WHY VASD** | I was able to rotate here as a student for APPEs and fell in love. Caring for veterans is so rewarding and the providers here are amazing.

**BEST PART OF RESIDENCY** | Getting to teach and mentor students as well as bonding with my co-residents!

**HOMETOWN:** San Jose, CA

**EDUCATION:** UOP Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy

**HOBBIES:** Drawing/Painting, Concerts/Festivals, Baking

**INTERESTS:** Ambulatory Care, Psychiatry, Geriatrics

## PGY1 MANAGED CARE RESIDENT

### Vivian Di

**WHY VASD** | I chose VASD because of the diverse patient population, wide range of managed care rotations, and the opportunities for direct patient care.

**BEST PART OF RESIDENCY** | Definitely my co-residents and experiencing different learning opportunities!

**HOMETOWN:** Pittsburgh, PA

**EDUCATION:** Duquesne University School of Pharmacy

**HOBBIES:** Going to the gym, farmers market, cooking, and plants

**INTERESTS:** Informatics, Pharmacoeconomics, Population Health



[vivian.di@va.gov](mailto:vivian.di@va.gov)

# WHERE DO RESIDENTS END UP POST PGY1

## FIRST POSITION ACCEPTED AFTER PGY1 RESIDENCY TRAINING

### PGY2 Residency Training Programs (Previous 5 graduating classes):

#### VA San Diego Healthcare System

- Ambulatory Care
- Critical Care
- Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership (HSPSAL)
- Infectious Diseases
- Oncology
- Pain Management and Palliative Care
- Pharmacy Informatics
- Psychiatric Pharmacy

#### Other VA Healthcare System

- Population Health Management and Data Analytics / VA Sierra Pacific Network (NV)
- Population Health Management and Data Analytics Pharmacy / Central Texas Veterans Health Care System (TX)
- Psychiatric Pharmacy / Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (TX)

#### Other Health Care Organizations

- Ambulatory Care / County of Santa Clara Health System

### Pharmacy Practice Positions (Previous 10 graduating classes):

#### VA San Diego Healthcare System

- Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care
- Clinical Pharmacist in Acute Care (Emergency Department / Medicine)
- Clinical Pharmacist in Oncology

#### Other VA Healthcare Systems

- Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at VA Northern California Healthcare System
- Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
- Clinical Pharmacist in Pain Management at VA Palo Alto Healthcare System
- Clinical Pharmacist in Quality Assurance at VA Tucson CMOP

#### Other Healthcare Organizations

- Clinical Pharmacist at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, CA
- Clinical Pharmacist at OptumCare in Salt Lake City, UT
- Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at Preveon Health in Colton, CA
- Clinical Pharmacist at Scripps Mercy in San Diego, CA
- Clinical Pharmacist at Sharp Grossmont in San Diego, CA
- Clinical Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento, CA
- Clinical Pharmacist at Riverside University Health System – Medical Center in Riverside, CA
- Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care with Los Angeles Department of Health Services
- Drug Education Coordinator - Kaiser Permanente - Vallejo (CA)
- Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist at Anaheim Regional Medical Center (CA)
- Managed Care Pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente - Santa Clara (CA)

# Former VA San Diego Resident Testimonials

## Muoi Gi

*PGY1 (2005 – 2006)*

*PGY2 Oncology (2006 – 2007)*

**Current Position at VASD:**

PGY2 Oncology Residency Program  
Director and Clinical Pharmacy  
Practitioner, Oncology

**WHAT MAKES VASD A UNIQUE PLACE FOR TRAINING?**

"We have remarkable collaborative working relationships with the providers and our patients at this teaching institution. At VASD, many pharmacy preceptors have specialized scopes of practice that allow us to have prescribing privileges in various practice settings and to be the patients' primary providers. As a result, our pharmacy resident trainees will have valuable learning opportunities to serve as an integral member of the healthcare team and make meaningful interventions to better care for our veteran population. Another special aspect of our service is that majority of our pharmacy staff were past VASD pharmacy residents (whom decided to stay on after graduation). We love it here so much that we don't want to leave."

## Trisha Ung

*PGY1 (2006 – 2007)*

**Current Position at VASD:**

Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner,  
Emergency Department

**WHY DID YOU CONTINUE YOUR CAREER AT VASD?**

"I stayed here to continue to give back to the veterans who have worked hard to keep us and our country safe. In addition, it was a good opportunity to set up a new program in the ED as I was part of the initial group to have started in the ED."

## Elizabeth Gramer

*PGY1 (2010 – 2011)*

*PGY2 HSPAL (2011-2012)*

**Current Position at VASD:**

Associate Chief, Ambulatory Care

**WHY DID YOU PURSUE A CAREER WITHIN THE VA?**

"The VA is continuously changing and that makes my job as a manager exciting. There is always something new to learn!"

## Christina Dang

*PGY1 (2011-2012)*

**Current Position at VASD:**

Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner,  
Ambulatory Care

**WHY DID YOU CONTINUE YOUR CAREER AT VASD?**

I liked the collaborative work environment and the existing position of pharmacy within the healthcare system, pharmacy is well respected here. Also, there are multiple opportunities within AmCare specifically that made me feel as though I could stay here for a long time but still continue to learn and have different opportunities.

## Serena Cheng

*PGY2 Ambulatory Care (2016 – 2017)*

**Current Position at VASD:**

PGY2 Pain & Palliative Care Residency  
Program Coordinator;  
Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner, Pain;  
Pain Management, Opioid Safety and  
PDMP (PMOP) Facility Coordinator

**WHAT MAKES VASD A UNIQUE PLACE FOR TRAINING?**

"The VA has always been at the forefront of creating opportunities for pharmacists to practice at the top of their license. This means that I am able to provide better patient care, reduce medication errors, and monitor medication outcomes in my clinic as a clinical pharmacist with prescriptive authority. At VASD, we have a supportive environment of peers, multi-disciplinary teammates, and leadership that encourages us to develop and implement best practices to improve patient care and safety"

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do residents choose their electives?

- PGY1 pharmacy residents have two elective blocks throughout the year. You rank your top elective choices and meet with the RPD, who will arrange your schedule based on your top interests.
- During the required ambulatory care rotation, you can personalize your rotation experience by selecting 4 elective clinics to fit your professional interests.

## What does a typical year look like in terms of rotation schedules?

RESIDENT PGY1 Rotation Blocks	7/1 – 7/10 1.4 weeks	7/11 – 8/9 4.4 weeks	8/12 – 9/13 4.6 weeks	9/16 – 10/18 4.6 weeks	10/21 – 11/22 4.6 weeks	11/25 – 1/3 4+ weeks	1/6 – 1/10 1/13 - 2/14 4.8 weeks	2/17 – 3/21 4.6 weeks	3/24 – 4/18 4.0 weeks	4/21 – 5/23 4.8 weeks	5/26 – 6/27 4.0 weeks
Holidays	7/4		9/2	10/14	11/11	11/28, 12/25, 1/1	1/20	2/17			5/26, 6/19
PGY1 Grand Rounds March 12/17	Orientation	Ambulatory Care	Ambulatory Care	Psychiatry	Medicine	Medicine	Critical Care	Administration 2/18 – 3/5 Formulary Consults 3/5 – 3/21	Infectious Diseases	Geriatrics	Emergency Department
PGY1 Grand Rounds October 21/24	Orientation	Academic Detailing	Administration 8/13 – 8/28 Formulary Consults 8/28 – 9/13	Pain	Ambulatory Care	Ambulatory Care	Psychiatry	Infectious Diseases	Medicine	Medicine	Critical Care
PGY1 Managed Care Grand Rounds March 12/17	Orientation	Formulary Management I	Pharmacoeconomics	Procurement	Data Analytics	Informatics	Ambulatory Care	Formulary Management II	Elective TBD	Medicine	Administration

## What teaching opportunities do residents participate in?

- Residents receive a teaching certificate through the San Diego Pharmacy Residency Leaders Program (SDPRL). They are expected to attend workshops with other residents in the San Diego region.
- Residents facilitate weekly Tuesday Conferences for pharmacy students, serving as a preceptor for student presentations and developing case discussions.
- Other teaching opportunities include mentoring pharmacy students on clinical rotations and providing in-service education.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Does the pharmacy staff have a good relationship with the other health care professionals?**

- Yes, this is a teaching hospital, so it is a very encouraging environment to foster clinical growth. The VA adopts progressive practices that allow pharmacists to provide direct patient care and the other members of the health care team see us as a valuable provider

## **What makes your program unique?**

- We have dedicated and experienced preceptors who are passionate about teaching. Many of them also have a scope-of-practice that allows them to practice autonomously
- Large residency class: 18 total residents with 8 PGY1 and 10 PGY2
- We have 10 onsite electives you get to choose from in addition to various off-site electives (subject to change)
- Numerous PGY2 programs with potential for early commit
- Our staffing model is specific to the rotation you are in (see below)

## **What are the staffing requirements for pharmacy residents?**

- There are dedicated blocks for staffing (ambulatory care, medicine) where residents will gain experience in order verification, outpatient pharmacy operations, IV preparations, and sterile technique
- No weekend staffing unless required by a specific rotation
- If available, we offer moonlighting/fee basis appointments where you can staff in the inpatient or outpatient pharmacy after rotation hours/weekends for additional pay

## **How are research project ideas determined?**

- Residents with mentors are responsible for formulating their own research question and will gain skills in creating a study design and methodology, data collection and analysis, and presenting research findings.

## **Which Electronic Medical Record do you use?**

- VASD utilizes a Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) and Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA). Though we may be switching to Cerner in the future, the timeline for that is still TBD.

## **Where can I learn more about your recruitment events?**

- All recruitment information can be found on page 2 of this brochure!

# Applicant Qualifications

- Participation in the ASHP Resident Matching Program
- United States citizenship with proof of naturalization if naturalized
- Possess (or in the process of obtaining) a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited School or College of Pharmacy
- Eligible for licensure to practice as a pharmacist at VA San Diego within 120 days from the beginning of the residency program
- Initial set of licensing exams must be taken within 45 days from the beginning of the residency program
- Must be able to show documented proof for each requirement and must maintain eligibility for the duration of the VA appointment via the Am I Eligible? Checklist for Health Professional Trainees (HPTs) Training at VA Facilities: [Am I Eligible? Checklist for VA Health Professional Trainees](#)

# Application Process

- All application materials must be submitted through Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application (PhORCAS):
  - **PHASE I DEADLINE for ALL Programs** is January 2, 2025 at 11:59PM EST
  - **PHASE II DEADLINE for ALL Programs with available positions** is March 24th, 2025 at 11:59PM EST
- Submitted Materials must include:
  - Basic Demographics
  - Verified Transcripts for Schools or Colleges of Pharmacy Only
  - Personal Statement/Letter of Intent
  - Curriculum Vitae
  - Three letters of recommendation using the standardized reference template in PhORCAS
  - Extracurricular Information
- Selected applicants will be invited to a personal virtual or on-site interview. Candidates who are not invited for an on-site interview will be notified via e-mail.







