

# VA



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
*VA Long Beach Healthcare System*

ASHP Accredited Since 1981

# PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM



**2025-2026 POSTGRADUATE YEAR ONE**

VA Long Beach Healthcare System  
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Hello and thank you for inquiring about the VA Long Beach Healthcare System ASHP Accredited Pharmacy Residency Program. The VA Long Beach residency program was first established in 1979 – and continues to be a leader in the advancement of clinical pharmacy practice. Our program offers opportunities to practice across a wide variety of settings within a large integrated healthcare system. This booklet provides valuable information about our facility, teaching programs, preceptor faculty, clinical practice, and residency program.

VALB Pharmacy is a well-established and highly respected service, integral to the VA Long Beach Healthcare System. We consider it a privilege and an honor to provide healthcare to the men and women who have dedicated their lives in service to our country. Our pharmacists actively participate at all levels of the organization including in key leadership roles and as fully integrated members of the health care team. VALB Pharmacy is recognized for developing and managing clinical programs that focus on delivering value to patients, the organization and to the community. We are passionate about our profession and steadfast in our pursuit of excellence.

As a Pharmacy resident you will serve as a key member of our patient care team, providing direct patient care and education to patients, trainees and staff. Our training and practice environment is designed for those looking to be challenged both clinically and intellectually. Our goal is to inspire and provide opportunities for trainees to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities to become principled, highly competent and confident advanced care practitioners and future leaders.

We wish you the very best as you make this important career decision. We look forward to meeting you and encourage you to consider our program.



Michael Ascari, PharmD, MS  
Chief, Pharmacy Service



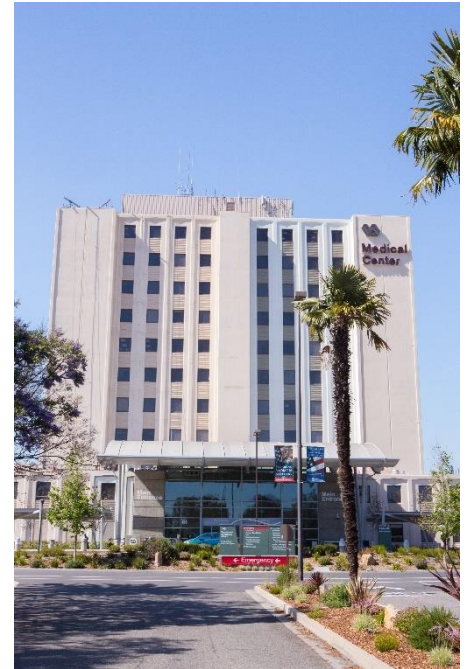
Patricia Chun, PharmD, BCPS  
Medication Safety Officer and Residency Program Director  
Pharmacy Service

# Postgraduate Year One Pharmacy Residency

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## The Training Site

VA Long Beach Healthcare System (VALBHS) is a tertiary care facility and accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. VALBHS is one of the most diversified tertiary health care providers in the VA. It is a teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient care services, with state-of-the-art technology as well as education and research. The medical center is a 360-bed progressive teaching facility affiliated with UCI School of Medicine and UOP, USC, UCSF, and Western Schools of Pharmacy. It encompasses Medical, Surgical, Spinal Cord Injury, Blind Rehabilitation Center, and Psychiatry Services, as well as Long-Term Care and Home-Based Primary Care. The immense Ambulatory Care Program consists of Primary Care and numerous specialty Medical and Surgical Clinics. The pharmacy department is staffed by 135 employees and provides complete clinical pharmacy services 24 hours daily, seven (7) days a week. VALBHS Pharmacy Service is committed to honoring our Veterans and providing exceptional health care. To that end, we are continually evaluating services and processes to enhance the patient experience, improve patient safety, and positively impact patient outcomes. Automation and technology are integrated into all aspects of the medication-use system such as patient-profiled automated medication storage and distribution devices (Omniceil® AMSDD), automated prescription filling (ScriptPro®) and Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) to enhance medication safety, reduce dispensing and administration errors, and allow pharmacists time to participate in direct patient care and cognitive services.



Tibor Rubin Medical Center (Long Beach campus of VA Long Beach Healthcare System) serves as the main practice site for residency rotations. Residents may be assigned to one rotation at a Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) located within 25 miles of the main campus.

## Geographical Information

VA Long Beach Healthcare System is centrally located within the heart of sunny Southern California, in between Los Angeles and Orange County. There is much to experience in the local area including the Aquarium of the Pacific, Belmont Shore, Disneyland, Disney's California Adventure, and many more attractions. The City of Long Beach is well-known for easy access to miles of sandy beaches, fine dining, and exciting nightlife.

## *VA Long Beach Pharmacy Vision*

*To be the benchmark of excellence and value in pharmacy practice, recognized as a leader amongst patients and peers in safety, quality and customer service. To be the preferred pharmacy practice site by our partners and stakeholders renowned for providing quality education, mentoring, and training to our staff, residents, and students.*

## *VA Long Beach Pharmacy Mission*

*Our mission is to deliver safe, effective, and compassionate care to all those we serve. We aspire to create a valuable service that exceeds the expectations of patients, stakeholders, and the medical community. Our commitment is to our patients, the advancement of healthcare, and to the development of future leaders.*

## **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.

## **Residency Training Program Purpose**

The purpose of this PGY1 pharmacy residency program is to build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and outcomes to contribute to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives. Residents who successfully complete this PGY1 program will be skilled in diverse patient care, practice management, leadership, and education, and be prepared to provide patient care, seek board certification in pharmacotherapy, and pursue advanced education and training opportunities including postgraduate year two residencies.

This residency program aims to train pharmacists to provide pharmaceutical care across a variety of practice settings (e.g., ambulatory care, acute care, critical care, pharmacy benefit management, and pharmacy operations), participate as a member of the health care team, and provide education of patients, health professionals and themselves. In addition, residents will learn to perform self-monitoring and demonstrate leadership through contributions to performance improvement. Residents will be encouraged to develop an approach to the profession that can lead to life-long learning and career satisfaction.

## Program Competency Areas

Upon completion of this program, the pharmacy resident will achieve the following competencies as determined by the ASHP Accreditation Standard for PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Programs:

### Patient Care

Independent provision of pharmaceutical care, primarily to ambulatory, acute, critical, geriatric and long-term care patients, through participation on health care teams and working under pharmacists with scopes of practice.

### Practice Advancement

Identify and implement changes needed to improve patient care and medication use systems and assess the impact of these changes. Make contributions to the current and future knowledge bank through evaluation and investigation.

### Leadership

Demonstrate leadership through a positive professional attitude and contributions to improvements in patient care systems. Perform self-monitoring and self-directed learning in preparation for life-long learning. Develop attitudes and skills for a satisfying career. Promote the profession of pharmacy and demonstrate professional commitment.

### Teaching and Education

Educate patients and health professionals about medication/health related issues. Communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, with patients/ public and members of the health care team and other health professionals to build relationships and accomplish goals.



## Program Structure

<b>Eight Rotations (6 weeks each)</b>	<b>REQUIRED (5)</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute Care Medicine</li> <li>Critical Care</li> <li>Patient Aligned Care Team (<i>may be assigned to offsite community-based clinic</i>)</li> <li>Cardiology Clinics</li> <li>Formulary Management (4-week rotation)</li> </ul>	
	<b>ELECTIVES (3)</b>	
	Selective Required ( <i>must choose one below</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outpatient Pharmacy Operations</li> <li>Inpatient Pharmacy Operations</li> </ul>	Select 2 Rotations Below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialty Clinics</li> <li>Home Based Primary Care</li> <li>Emergency Medicine</li> <li>Surgery</li> <li>Infectious Diseases</li> <li>Inpatient Psychiatry</li> <li>Inpatient Spinal Cord Injury</li> <li>Community Living Center (Nursing Home)</li> <li>Oncology</li> <li>Medication Safety</li> <li>Pharmacy Administration</li> </ul>
<b>Practice Management (2 week)</b>	Active participation in the administration of Pharmacy Service under the supervision of pharmacy administrators across following program areas: Operations, Clinical Programs, Medication Safety.	
<b>Research/Quality Improvement Project (Longitudinal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents will be required to complete either a research study (submission to IRB) or a quality improvement project.</li> <li>Three-week project time incorporated within academic calendar (2 weeks in Dec/Jan and 1 week in Feb)- <i>subject to change based on APPE academic calendar.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Teaching Certificate Program (Longitudinal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APhA Advanced Preceptor Training Course (~12 CEUs)</li> <li>Lead ambulatory care and medicine didactics (~12 sessions)</li> <li>Co-precept APPE students in Cholesterol Clinic (2 blocks)</li> <li>Deliver 2 formal presentations.</li> <li>Development of personal teaching philosophy statement</li> </ul>	
<b>Staffing Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inpatient Pharmacy: Every 4 weekends (Sat and Sun, 8 hr. shifts) for a total of 6 weekends (12 days)</li> <li>Outpatient Pharmacy: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat (8hr shifts) for a total of 10 days</li> <li>One compensatory day off for each full weekend (Sat/Sun) worked</li> </ul>	

## Sample Pharmacy Resident Schedule

Each block is a 6-week period.

	BLOCK 1 (4 wk)	BLOCK 2	BLOCK 3	BLOCK 4	DEC/JAN
Resident 1	Medicine	Critical Care	Cardiology Clinics	Elective: ID	2-Week Research/QI Project Time
Resident 2	Elective: Inpt Psychiatry	Elective: Oncology	Formulary	Specialty Clinics	
Resident 3	PACT	Cardiology Clinics	Acute Care Medicine	Critical Care	

## Requirements for PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Certificate

- Satisfactory or Achieved rating on all terminal required ASHP PGY1 Pharmacy objectives.
- Pharmacist licensure for at least 2/3 (35 weeks) of the program year.
- Time away from residency program does not exceed 37 days.
- Quality improvement or research project with a written manuscript suitable for publication in the professional literature.
- Quality improvement or research project presentation at VA South-West Pharmacy Residents Conference or other similar regional conference
- Completion of 1 one written “minor project” that is presented to pharmacy leadership or similar stakeholders.
- Completion of a drug class review, monograph, treatment guideline, treatment protocol, utilization management criteria, and/or order set.
- Formal Presentations (2)- Staff in-service and APPE Regional Conference Lecture
- 1 Written practice-related education material created and disseminated to a wide target audience.

## General Residency Information

Program Components	Description
General Descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Period of Appointment: 12 months, July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</li> <li>▪ Estimated Stipend: \$ 56,522</li> <li>▪ Number of Positions Available: 6</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health/Dental/Vision/Life insurance options</li> <li>▪ Authorized Absence and registration support to attend select professional meetings:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ASHP Midyear or CSHP Annual Seminar</li> <li>✓ South-West VA Residents Conference (or similar)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Thirteen (13) days annual leave (“vacation”) accrued 4 hours every 2 weeks.</li> <li>▪ Thirteen (13) days sick leave accrued 4 hours every 2 weeks.</li> <li>▪ Eleven (11) paid holidays.</li> <li>▪ Centralized office workspace with access to up-to-date personal computer and desk</li> <li>▪ Lab coat, scrub allotment and laundry service</li> <li>▪ Free on-site parking</li> <li>▪ Per-diem (moonlighting) opportunities</li> </ul>
Pharmacist Licensure Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pharmacist license in one of the States of the United States by October 28<sup>th</sup> of the residency year.</li> <li>▪ The applicant is highly encouraged to take the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and the California or Multistate Pharmacist Jurisprudence Examination (CPJE or MPJE) prior to entering the residency program (July 1st).</li> <li>▪ Failure to obtain licensure within 120 days of residency start may result in termination from the program.</li> </ul>
Applicant Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Possess or in the process of obtaining a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from an accredited school or college of pharmacy.</li> <li>▪ Eligible for licensure to practice pharmacy in any state.</li> <li>▪ United States citizenship with proof of naturalization if naturalized at the time of application.</li> <li>▪ Male Trainees: Registration for Selective Service prior to end of 25th birthday or by the time of application submission, whichever comes first.</li> <li>▪ Participation in the ASHP Residency Matching Program</li> <li>▪ Completed a professional curriculum which includes significant clinical clerkship experience</li> </ul>



<p>Application Procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Register with ASHP Resident Matching Program</li> <li>▪ Online submission to the program thru PhORCAS™ (Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Official school of pharmacy transcript (sent directly to PHORCAS™)</li> <li>✓ Personal statement/letter of intent specifically addressing why you desire to do a residency with the VALB.</li> <li>✓ Curriculum Vitae</li> <li>✓ Three (3) letters of recommendation (standardized reference form in PhORCAS™).</li> <li>✓ Extracurricular information</li> <li>✓ Supplemental information (<a href="http://www.va.gov/vaforms/">http://www.va.gov/vaforms/</a>): VA Application for Health Professions Trainees (Form # 10-2850D)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Application Deadline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phase I: January 2, 2025 @11:59 PM EST</li> <li>▪ Phase II for available positions: March 25, 2025 @11:59 PM EST</li> </ul>
<p>Interview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interviews will be scheduled based on evaluation of the written application.</li> <li>▪ On-site interview occurring late January to late February. Virtual interview option should accommodations be necessary.</li> <li>▪ Candidates who are not invited for an interview will be notified via e-mail.</li> </ul>



## First Positions Accepted Post Residency (2019-2023)

- VA Long Beach- Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist Specialist (6)
- VA Long Beach- Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist (5)
- VA Palo Alto- Primary Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist (1)
- VA Greater Los Angeles- Outpatient Clinical Pharmacist (1)
- VA Tucson- Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist Specialist (1)
- Kaiser Permanente- Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (5)
- Kaiser Permanente- Oncology Pharmacist (1)
- Kaiser Permanente- Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist (1)
- PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency, Kaiser Permanente San Diego (1)
- PGY2 Investigational Drugs and Research, UC Davis (1)
- Cedars Sinai- Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist (3)
- UCLA- Cardiac ICU Pharmacist (1)
- LAC+USC- Inpatient Pharmacist (1)
- Desert Oasis Healthcare- Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (2)
- Providence Little Company of Mary- Medication Reconciliation Pharmacist (1)
- Avarado Hospital Medical Center San Diego- Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist (1)
- Sharp Grossmont San Diego- Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist (1)
- Methodist Health System Cardiovascular Clinics- Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (1)
- MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center- Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist (1)

## 2024-2025 PGY1 Pharmacy Residents



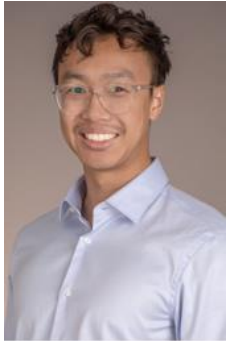
**Destini Nguyen**  
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University of California,  
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Clinical Interests: Acute Care,  
Cardiology  
Hobbies: Finding freebies and good  
deals, sleeping



**Fiona Tran**  
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Clinical Interests: ID and Acute Care  
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Skincare, Makeup



**Triet Ngo**  
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Clinical Interests: Psychiatry, SUD  
Hobbies: Exploring new colognes,  
making bad financial decisions



**Jonathan Hua**  
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Sciences  
Clinical Interests: ID, Cardiology,  
Psychiatry  
Hobbies: Board games, hiking



**Phuong Quynh Tran**  
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San Diego  
Clinical Interests: Ambulatory Care,  
Cardiology  
Hobbies: Arts and Crafts, exploring  
new foods/boba places



**Cynthia Huynh**  
[Cynthia.Huynh2@va.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Huynh2@va.gov)

University of California,  
San Diego  
Clinical Interests: Ambulatory  
Care, Oncology  
Hobbies: Spending time with  
dog, shopping

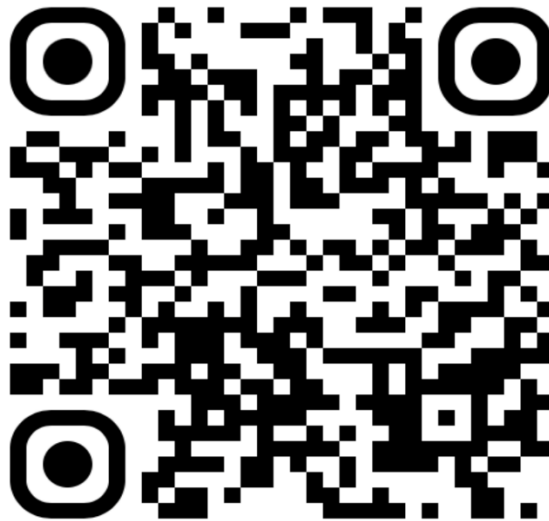


## 2024 Residency Showcase and Open House Information

Southern California Residency Showcase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oct 4 (FRI): 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM</li><li>• Yorba Linda Community Center</li></ul>
CSHP Seminar, Palm Springs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> (SAT): 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM</li><li>• Booth # 505 S</li></ul>
VA Long Beach VIRTUAL Open House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nov 13 (Wed) 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM</li><li>• Nov 18 (Mon) 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM</li></ul> <p>LINK TO SIGN UP: <a href="https://forms.gle/MNy14MRgXwFzJWT9A">https://forms.gle/MNy14MRgXwFzJWT9A</a></p>

Thank you for considering our program! Check us out on YouTube!

Sign up below to attend one of our Virtual Open House Events:



Questions about the program and application process may be directed to:  
E-mail: [vhalonpharmresidency@va.gov](mailto:vhalonpharmresidency@va.gov)