

Meet Our Preceptors



Robert (Bob) Lana, PharmD received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry/Biology from PACE University in White Plains, NY in 1981 and Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1986. He received his PharmD degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Science in Little Rock, AK in 2000. Dr. Lana is certified in immunization and medication therapy management and has served as an adjunct faculty member at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and St. John's University. He has a teaching certificate from the University of Connecticut. He is also an active member of ACCP, ASHP, and the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. Dr. Lana has been the Chief of Pharmacy at VA HVHCS since 1999 and is responsible for overseeing all clinical, inpatient, and outpatient pharmacy operations at the Castle Point and Montrose campuses as well as VA HVHCS's seven VA Outpatient Clinics. Prior to this, he held several clinical and supervisory pharmacy roles throughout his career.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Administration

Fun Fact: Bob is an avid New York Giants fan and holds season tickets.



Karen M. Park, PharmD, BCGP, BCACP received her PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences in Albany, NY in 2003 and completed a primary care specialty residency at the VA Maryland Health Care System in Baltimore, MD in 2004. Dr. Park is an active member of ASHP and has completed the Geriatrics Scholars Program offered by the VA Geriatric Research, Education & Clinical Center (GRECC). She holds certifications in anticoagulation therapy management and immunization. Dr. Park has been a clinical pharmacy specialist at VA HVHCS since 2005 and currently manages the anticoagulation, diabetes, and primary care clinics at the Goshen, Port Jervis, and Monticello VA Outpatient Clinics. She formerly served as PGY1 Pharmacy and PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program Director from 2008-2018. She precepts both pharmacy residents and advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) students from affiliated colleges of pharmacy.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Education

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Ambulatory Care/CBOC PACT, Teaching & Health Education

Fun Fact: Karen has travelled to every state except Alaska, which is next on her bucket list. However, this will likely need to wait several years, as she has two little kids at home. Karen works part-time and is off every Wednesday.



Rita Bodine, PharmD, DPLA received her PharmD degree from St. John's University in Queens, NY and completed a Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Program at Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States in Rockville, MD. Dr. Bodine joined the VA HVHCS pharmacy team in 2006, initially serving both staff pharmacist and clinical pharmacist roles. She has extensive experience in managing anticoagulation, diabetes, clozapine, and performing clinical practice management duties. Since 2010, she has served as the Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Operations. She is responsible for the management and/or oversight of multiple clinical pharmacy programs including, primary care/patient aligned care team (PACT), anticoagulation, mental health, pain management, infectious disease, and home based primary care (HBPC). Dr. Bodine holds certification in immunization and has completed the VISN 3 leadership development program.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Clinical Pharmacy Management, Pharmacy Administration, Project, Academic Detailing

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Clinical Pharmacy Management/Administration, Orientation, Project, Academic Detailing

Fun Fact: Rita is an avid Washington Redskins fan.



Kimberly Allison, PharmD, BCACP received her Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and her PharmD degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at VA HVHCS in 2010. She has been a clinical pharmacy specialist at VA HVHCS since 2010. Dr. Allison has been an adjunct professor at the physician assistant program at Pace University since 2018. In 2019 she became the PGY1 pharmacy residency program director at VA HVHCS. Her primary area of practice is in the infectious disease clinic.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Infectious Disease, Advanced Infectious Disease

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Primary Care/PACT, Orientation

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Infectious Disease/Hepatitis C

Fun Fact: Kimberly volunteers at the Stony Kill Foundation in Wappingers Falls, NY.



Joy Awoniyi, PharmD received her PharmD degree from Florida A&M University in 2012. She worked as a pharmacy technician at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare in Tallahassee, Florida throughout pharmacy school. After graduating, she completed her PGY1 Pharmacy and PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program in 2013 and 2014 at the Miami VA Healthcare System. She continued to work as a clinical pharmacist in mental health at the Miami VA where she was involved with tobacco cessation and provided mental health medication management to primary care patients. She has been working as a mental health clinical pharmacy specialist at VA HVHCS since March 2018. Her roles, thus far, have been mainly with the inpatient acute psychiatric unit, but she also works with the mental health department to monitor quality assurance measures and to help meet psychopharmacologic-related goals. Although Dr. Awoniyi has a passion for teaching, she also loves to learn new things or processes that help to advance the pharmacy profession.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Mental Health

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Mental Health

Fun Fact: Joy grew up in Denver, Colorado and her favorite thing to do is sing. Before deciding to go to pharmacy school, she appeared in two operas, multiple high school musicals, shared stages with Ray Charles and Bobby McFerrin, and has even sung in the White House and at Carnegie Hall. She spends her free time writing songs, playing (or attempting to play) her keyboard, leading praise teams, and teaching children's choirs at First Seventh-Day Adventist Church of White Plains. She loves Broadway musicals and travels to New York City to see shows, some that feature friends who she grew up singing with in choirs.



Rosa Bates, PharmD, BCACP, received her PharmD degree from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 2006 and completed her PGY1 pharmacy residency at VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo, NY. She started at the VA HVHCS as the lead evening pharmacist in 2007 and transitioned to the clinical pharmacy specialist position in 2008. Dr. Bates currently manages the anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus as well as the Pine Plains and Poughkeepsie VA Outpatient Clinics. She holds certification in immunization and has been the RPD for the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program since 2019.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation I and II

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Orientation

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): Ambulatory Care/CBOC PACT

Fun Fact: Rosa was born and raised in NYC, Brooklyn to be exact. She never learned to ride a bike or swim as a child so she is now trying to learn with her two little children (Sydney and Oliver). They are making more progress than she is. Rosa loves to travel, run, cook, and spend time with her family and friends.



Maria (Angela) Bottalico, PharmD received her PharmD from the Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy, Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY in 2001. She has been a pharmacist at VA HVHCS since 2006. She currently manages anticoagulation at the Montrose campus and for several of the VA Outpatient Clinics. Dr. Bottalico has been the primary preceptor for the PGY2 Anticoagulation rotation for several years and continues to enjoy precepting residents and APPE students. Prior to working at the VA, Dr. Bottalico worked in community pharmacy.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Anticoagulation

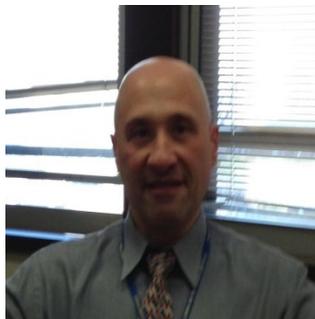
Fun Fact: Angela was born in Spain and is the mother of 4 energetic boys. She is currently working part-time on Mondays and Tuesdays. Her husband is a NYC firefighter, so Angela spends her free time trying to wrangle her 4 children.



Eunsuk (Amanda) Chung, PharmD received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT in 1990 and completed a pharmacy practice residency program at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York, NY immediately following. She received her PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston, MA in 2010. She has worked at VA HVHCS since 2006, but has been a pharmacist within the VA for over 20 years, previously at the Coatesville VAMC in Coatesville, PA, and Northampton VAMC in Northampton, MA. Dr. Chung is certified in anticoagulation therapy management and lipid clinic preceptorship. She manages anticoagulation, diabetes, and PACT/primary care clinics at the Castle Point campus and continues to staff in the pharmacy on the weekends.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Anticoagulation, Primary Care/PACT

Fun Fact: Amanda speaks fluent Korean and is active in her church. Her daughter is currently living in California and is working on obtaining her Masters in Speech Pathology.



Philip (Phil) Forlenza, PharmD, BCACP received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1986 and his PharmD degree from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2014. Dr. Forlenza is certified in immunization and serves as an active member of the United States Air Force and the Society of Air Force Pharmacists. He has been a clinical pharmacy specialist at VA HVHCS since 2010 and holds a variety of responsibilities including the management of non-formulary consults, adverse drug reaction reporting, and anticoagulation management. In 2012, Dr. Forlenza implemented the pharmacy-managed pain management clinic and works collaboratively with the pain management team. He has also had extensive experience in the private institutional sector as well as community pharmacy settings.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Pain Management

Primary Preceptor (PGY2): Pain Management

Fun Fact: Phil has set foot on all 7 continents.



Diane Leung-DiLiberto, PharmD received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in 1994 and her PharmD degree at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2016. She has been a clinical pharmacist at VA HVHCS since 2010 working at the Castle Point campus where she is responsible for inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care pharmacy services and patient care. Currently Dr. Leung-DiLiberto is the Facility Program Manager of Drug Compliance and Quality overseeing and monitoring all activities related to sterile compounding, non-sterile compounding and hazardous medication handling. Prior to joining the pharmacy team at VA HVHCS, Diane served as a pharmacist in institutional, long-term care, and managed care settings. She has worked extensively in hospital pharmacy, oncology, and long-term care pharmacy.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Chemotherapy

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Outpatient Staffing, Inpatient Staffing

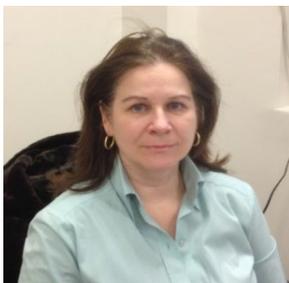
Fun Fact: Diane enjoys hiking, bike riding, and rollerblading. She is the proud mama of 2 girls. In public, her 17-year-old daughter calls her Diane, instead of Mama, to save her from embarrassing situations.



Leonard (Lenny) Manzella, PharmD received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy in Kingston, RI in 1994 and his PharmD degree from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2014. He has worked at VA HVHCS since 2004. Dr. Manzella was the pharmacy supervisor at the Montrose campus from 2010-2020 and was responsible for overseeing all inpatient and outpatient pharmacy operations. In 2020, he decided to make a transition and is currently the Pharmacy ADPAC.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Pharmacy Informatics

Fun Fact: Lenny is an avid New York Jets fan and holds season tickets.



Svitlana (Lana) Stanton, PharmD received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from St. John's University in Queens, NY in 1990 and PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) in Boston, MA in 2010. Dr. Stanton is certified in Anticoagulation Therapy Management, Immunization, and Medication Therapy Management. She has worked at VA HVHCS since 2008 in both staff pharmacist and clinical pharmacy specialist roles. She's held her current position as the Pharmacy Supervisor at the Castle Point campus since 2015 and is responsible for overseeing all inpatient and outpatient pharmacy operations. Dr. Stanton has also had extensive experience as a pharmacist in private institutions as well as community pharmacy settings.

Primary Preceptor (PGY1): Outpatient Staffing, Inpatient Staffing

Secondary Preceptor (PGY2): Orientation

Fun Fact: Lana loves chocolate and enjoys going to the movies.



Kara Yurkovic, PharmD, CDE received her PharmD degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in 2008 and completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency program at W.G. Bill Hefner VA in Salisbury, NC in 2009. Dr. Yurkovic is a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) and an active member of AADE and APhA. She has been a clinical pharmacy specialist at VA HVHCS since 2010. Now working part-time, she runs a CDE clinic, serves as chairperson for Clinical Pertinence Reviews/Adjudication Committee, and manages anticoagulation clinics. Prior to joining the pharmacy team at VA HVHCS, she was a clinical pharmacy specialist at the West Haven VA in West Haven, CT.

Secondary Preceptor (PGY1): Primary Care/PACT, Anticoagulation

Fun Fact: Kara works part-time, only on Thursdays. She is a mother of three young children, Rhys, Veya, and Addison.



Princy Pathickal, PharmD, BCPS received her PharmD degree from Temple University in 2013. She completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in 2014 and a PGY2 residency in ambulatory care practice and academia at the University of Georgia, with practice sites at the Athens VA Outpatient Clinic and Mercy Health Center, in 2015. She started at VA HVHCS in April 2019 as a home-based primary care (HBPC) clinical pharmacy specialist and works primarily with patients through telephone and video encounters, managing anticoagulation, diabetes, heart failure, and other chronic conditions. Prior to joining VA HVHCS, she was a transition of care pharmacist at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY.

Preceptor-in-training (PGY1): HBPC

Preceptor-in-training (PGY2): HBPC

Fun Fact: Princy has 31 first cousins, most of whom live within 20 minutes from her.