PGY2 Pharmacy Residency

Neurology
Ambulatory Care

Pharmacy Fellowship
Cardiology

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
Introduction

The Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) is among the largest and most complex VA medical centers in the nation. It provides a full spectrum of acute and long term inpatient and ambulatory care to approximately 1.4 million veterans residing in the primary service area of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Kern Counties, covering 20,000 square miles. The VAGLAHS consists of one tertiary care facility, two ambulatory care centers, and nine community based outpatient clinics. VAGLAHS is affiliated with both UCLA School of Medicine and USC School of Medicine, as well as more than 45 colleges, universities, and vocational schools in 17 different health care related programs.

The West Los Angeles Healthcare Center is a tertiary care teaching facility dedicated to providing a wide array of acute and ambulatory patient care services to our nation's veterans. The comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services provided include a broad range of medical, surgical, and psychiatric care. Internal medicine subspecialties include cardiology, infectious diseases, gastroenterology, allergy, pulmonology, nephrology, endocrinology, rheumatology, and hematology/oncology. Major surgical subspecialties include orthopedics, urology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, plastics, ENT, podiatry, and cardiothoracic surgery. In addition to the main acute care hospital, there is a 180-bed Nursing Home, a Hospice Unit, Home-Based Primary Care, and a newly built 300+ bed State Home.

The Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center & Nursing Home offers a state-of-the-art ambulatory care facility. The center has specialty outpatient programs in spinal cord injury, stroke rehabilitation, women's health, preventative medicine, dentistry, mental health, and chemical dependency. Extended care activities include a 120-bed Academic Nursing Home and a Home-Based Primary Care Program. The facility hosts extensive clinical and basic science research, including Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) and Field Program for Health Science Research and Development (HSR&D). The HSR&D program evaluates provider practice and patient outcome studies in the delivery of ambulatory health care.

The Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center is located in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. It serves as a centrally located facility for the diverse veteran population of the city of Los Angeles, focusing on primary care and mental health services. The clinic provides special services in post-traumatic stress disorder, day treatment, and mental health services.

General Information

The VAGLAHS offers PGY2 specialty residency programs in the area of Neurology and Cardiology.

The PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Neurology is one of the only neurology residencies offered in the nation and is currently the first and only ASHP accredited Neurology Residency. It is a twelve-month long program that provides a very diverse experience in both the acute care and ambulatory care settings. Training is primarily conducted at the West Los Angeles Healthcare Center.

The residency provides a solid foundation in the areas of stroke and epilepsy, but also offers clinical experiences in movement disorders, dementia/neurobehavior, and general neurologic disorders such as headache and neuropathy. Interested residents also have the option of integrating neurosurgery experiences into the training year. Residents are offered the ability to tailor the program to meet their interests in the field of neurology.

Residents will be involved in teaching, with possible appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the USC School of Pharmacy. Residents will also be involved in research. The PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Cardiology is a twelve-month long joint program funded by Western University of Health Sciences. Depending upon the interest of the candidate, the program is also offered as a two-year fellowship. Residents/fellows will obtain clinical experiences at the VAGLAHS in both the acute care and ambulatory care settings. Training is conducted at the West Los Angeles Healthcare Center and Western University.

Residents/fellows will be involved in academia, obtaining faculty status at the WU College of Pharmacy. Residents/fellows will also be involved in research, with a heavier emphasis in the fellowship track.

Candidates interested in the Cardiology residency/fellowship would apply through Western University.
Inpatient Experiences
- **Acute Care Neurology:** The resident will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring drug therapy and antimicrobial, heparin, and anti-epileptic drug pharmacokinetic dosing consults to physicians and allied healthcare professionals. Residents will serve as the drug therapy specialist, as well as a pharmacy educator on the team. Residents will provide education to patients on management of risk factors for secondary stroke prevention. They will actively participate in interdisciplinary team meetings and medical rounds. The medical team consists of Board Certified Neurologist attendings, UCLA Neurology fellows, UCLA Neurology residents, UCLA Psychiatry interns, and a clinical pharmacist.
- **Epilepsy Monitoring Unit:** This is a specialized unit that was developed as part of the Epilepsy Center of Excellence use to properly identify seizure localization and subsequently surgical candidates. The resident will work closely with the Neurology fellow and will be responsible for obtaining a detailed admission history and medication history for long term video EEG monitoring. Residents will actively participate in assessing/planning safe drug titration on and off AEDs.
- **Acute Care Neurosurgery:** The resident will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring drug therapy and antimicrobial and anti-epileptic drug pharmacokinetic dosing consults to physicians and allied healthcare professionals. Residents will serve as the drug therapy specialist, as well as a pharmacy educator on the team. They will actively participate in interdisciplinary team meetings and neurosurgical rounds. The medical team consists of UCLA Neurosurgery attendings, UCLA Neurosurgery residents, and Surgery interns, and a clinical pharmacist.

Ambulatory Care Experiences
- **Stroke Clinic:** In this clinic, residents will have the opportunity to assess/initiate/adjust medication regimens under the supervision of clinical pharmacists and attending physicians. Resident responsibilities in the clinic include: reviewing medication profiles for drug interactions, appropriate dosing, therapy duplication, possible medication-induced side effects, and assessing compliance and barriers to compliance.
- **Seizure Clinic:** In this one half-day clinic, residents will have opportunities to assess/initiate/adjust AEDs under the supervision of clinical pharmacist and attending physicians. In addition to having the same general responsibilities as those identified for the Stroke Clinic, residents, will assure a comprehensive AED history is obtained, as well as appropriately monitor seizure response.
- **Headache Clinic:** In this clinic, residents will have the opportunity to assess/initiate/adjust medication regimens under the supervision of clinical pharmacists and attending physicians. In addition to having the same general responsibilities as those identified for Stroke Clinic, residents will also educate patients regarding signs and symptoms of headache, as well as triggers.
- **Dementia/Neurobehavior Clinic:** In this one half-day clinic, residents will have the opportunity to conduct an in-depth review of medication profiles, evaluating all medications and their potential to contribute to memory disorders. Residents will also be involved in telephone titration of dementia medications.
- **Movement Disorder Clinic:** In this one half-day clinic, residents will have the opportunity to provide detailed counseling on medications to patients diagnosed with various movement disorders such as Parkinson’s, ataxia, and tremor.
- **General Neurology Clinic:** In this half-day clinic, residents will have the opportunity to provide detailed counseling on medications to patients diagnosed with general neurologic disorders, particularly headache and neuropathy.
**PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Neurology**

**General Program Information**

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| **General Program Description**         | • Type/Duration of Program: Full-time residency/12 months  
• Number of Positions: 1  
• Application Deadline (PhORCAS™): December 31, 11:59PM EST  
• Residency Start Date: July 1  
• Estimated Stipend: $49,592  
• Fringe Benefits: Health and life insurance, 10 paid holidays, 12 days sick leave, 12 days vacation/annual leave, professional leave available to attend meetings and educational conferences |
| **Requirements for Consideration**      | • Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited college of pharmacy  
• Enrolled in or successful completion of a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency  
• Valid license from any of the 50 states (California licensure required if USC affiliated)  
• US citizenship for Federal employment |
| **USC School of Pharmacy Affiliation**  | • Optional joint appointment to the residency program  
• Includes faculty appointment and teaching certificate  
• Responsibilities include teaching/facilitating discussions for Level II and Level III pharmacy students, lecturing  
• Opportunity to participate in coursework and seminars developed by the university for pharmacy residents  
• Active California licensure by September 30 of the residency year is required  
• Separate interview with USC and subsequent acceptance by the university is required  
• Interested candidates should mark “YES” on the VAGLAHS Pharmacy Residency Supplemental Application |
| **Required Application Materials**      | Application via PhORCAS™  
• Letter of Intent  
• Curriculum Vitae (CV)  
• Three Letters of Recommendation, preferably from  
  o PGY1 Residency Program Director  
  o One employer  
  o One residency preceptor  
  Completion of online recommendation forms is required; letter is optional and must be included in online form  
• Official Pharmacy School Transcript conferring degree  
• VAGLAHS Pharmacy Residency Supplemental Application  
• OF 306 (Declaration for Federal Employment)  
Combine documents into 1 PDF before uploading into PhORCAS™; ensure all forms are complete/populated before uploading |
| **Interview**                            | • Interviews are offered to eligible candidates upon initial review of application materials; on-site interviews are preferred  
• Interviews are required for final consideration |

Applications must be complete and meet yearly established deadlines to be considered. Only applications submitted via PhORCAS™ will be accepted. Please forward all inquiries to:

Sunita Dergalust, PharmD, BCPS  
Program Director, PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Neurology  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
11301 Wilshire Boulevard (691/119)  
Building 500, Room 6042  
Los Angeles, CA 90073  
sunita.dergalust@va.gov  
(310) 268-3244
PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Ambulatory Care

Program Description

This specialty residency offers a comprehensive experience in ambulatory care with a focus in the providing care to the underserved. VAGLA’s HPACT program is a nationally designated Homeless PACT (Patient Aligned Care Team), focused on delivering “whole health care.” Established in July 2014, HPACT’s four interprofessional teams are among the country’s most highly concentrated groups of integrated mental health and primary care teams.

VAGLA is one of seven VA facilities designated as a Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education and has established an Interprofessional Academic PACT within our HPACT program (IA HPACT). The IA HPACT was created as a learning lab to promote the transformation of VA into interprofessional learning experiences to prepare trainees to practice, lead, and thrive in team-based health-systems.

The resident will participate in HPACT activities as integral members of the interprofessional team approximately seven half-days per week. An equivalent of approximately one day per week will be devoted to experiences in select subspecialty clinics, in blocks of six to twelve weeks, depending upon the rotation and the interest of the resident.

Ambulatory care preceptors include skilled physician providers, ambulatory care pharmacists, and research faculty members experienced in their respective specialty, as well as in research and academia. Teaching opportunities include didactic and small group facilitations, as well as precepting various levels of pharmacy trainees.

Research project is required for successful completion of this program. The resident will be given the opportunity to develop an ambulatory care-related research question based on their experience.

Practice Experience

West Los Angeles Healthcare Center (WLA):
Primary Preceptors: Shinobu Seragaki, Pharm.D., varies depending upon specialty clinic

HPACT Experience

- **Monday/Thursday:** The resident will be involved with providing clinical pharmacy services to HPACT patients on the IA HPACT team with trainees from other disciplines (Primary Care Internal Medicine and Psychiatry Residents, as well as Nurse Practitioner, Psychology, and Social Work Fellows). The resident will also participate in morning team huddles, patient-team huddles for complex patients, team meetings, continuous quality improvement and workflow meetings, and learning seminars. Program learning goals emphasize complex care of homeless Veterans and interprofessional (IP) team collaboration. The curriculum will address IP competencies in five domains: complex care of homeless Veterans, IP collaboration; sustained relationships; shared decision making; performance improvement. This component of the residency is longitudinal.

- **Two Days per Week:** The resident will be involved with providing clinical pharmacy services to HPACT patients on the remaining HPACT teams. Responsibilities include medication therapy management of patients referred to pharmacy for chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia as well as prescription processing, medication counseling, provision of drug information, patient/provider education. Residents may also be involved as a provider in shared medical appointments (SMA) and mobile medical units, as well as innovation and implementation of new services. This component of the residency is longitudinal.

Speciality Experiences

- **One Day per Week:** The resident will practice in various subspecialty clinics, in blocks of six to twelve weeks throughout the year, depending upon the rotation and the interest of the resident. This may include experiences in specialties such as anticoagulation, women’s health, anemia, hepatitis C, smoking cessation, neurology, geriatrics, infectious disease, and cardiology. Depending upon the practice of pharmacy within each of the specialized clinics, responsibilities may include activities such as medication therapy management of patients referred to pharmacy, clinical video telehealth (CVT), electronic consultations (e-consults), SMAs, and patient education.
### PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Ambulatory Care

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Janette D Lie, PharmD, BCACP  
Manager, Pharmacy Education and Training  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
Pharmacy Service  
11301 Wilshire Boulevard (691/119), Building 500, Room 6042  
Los Angeles, CA 90073  
janette.kim@va.gov  
310-478-3711, ext 41975
Pharmacy Fellowship in Cardiology

Program Description
Western University of Health Sciences is an institution with a focus in graduate-level education of health science professionals. Founded in 1977, the university is a small, private, health-focused institution that fosters interprofessional learning. The university is committed to preparing graduates, in a learner-centered academic and professional environment, who will serve the health care needs of society for today and for the future.

The PGY2 Pharmacy Residency/Fellowship Program in Cardiology is a joint program between Western University of Health Sciences and the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS). It is available as a 12-month PGY2 non-degree residency program or 2-year fellowship in cardiovascular pharmacy, depending upon the interests of the trainee. Since this is a two-campus program involving Western University and VA West Los Angeles Healthcare Center, residents are required to rotate at both sites, depending on required activities.

The program offers a well-balanced clinical experience between ambulatory care and acute care cardiology. Experiential and didactic teaching, as well as research activities, completes the program. The program is divided into monthly rotations and provides residents with clinical insights and practical experiences in cardiology practice, teaching, and research.

Practice Experience

Inpatient Experiences
- **Acute Care Cardiology**: During the rotation, the resident will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring drug therapy for the purposes of identifying, preventing and resolving drug-related problems with the patient and the healthcare team. Residents will serve as the drug therapy specialist as well as a pharmacy educator on the team, actively participating in interdisciplinary team meetings and medical rounds. The medical team includes Board Certified Attending Cardiologists, Cardiology fellows, medical residents, and a pharmacist.
- **Consults and Procedures**: The resident will have the opportunity to participate in the cardiology consult service, gaining an appreciation for treating patients with heart disease who are not admitted directly to the inpatient cardiology service. In addition, the resident will have the opportunity to observe various cardiac procedures, including, cardiac angiograms, percutaneous coronary interventions, echocardiograms, electrophysiological procedures, and stress tests.

Ambulatory Care Experiences
- **Cardiomyopathy Clinic and Risk Reduction Clinic**: In these two multidisciplinary clinics, the resident will have opportunities to conduct medication interviews, assess cardiovascular therapy regimens, educate patients and providers, and act as the drug therapy specialist under attending pharmacist/physician supervision. Resident responsibilities in the clinics include reviewing medication profiles for drug interactions, appropriate dosing, therapy duplication, possible medication-induced side effects, and assessing adherence and barriers to adherence.
- **Anticoagulation Clinic**: In this pharmacist-managed clinic, the resident will be responsible for assessing/adjusting medication regimens, ordering and following up on laboratory tests results under clinical pharmacist supervision. Resident responsibilities in the clinic also include: reviewing medication profiles for drug interactions, appropriate dosing, therapy duplication, possible medication-induced side effects, and assessing adherence and barriers to adherence.

Program Requirements

Teaching Responsibilities
Residents will be required to participate in didactic teaching and assessment within the Western University PharmD curriculum, precept Western U pharmacy students during their rotations, and conduct multidisciplinary presentations to the cardiology healthcare team.

Research Project
Residents are required to complete a cardiovascular-oriented research project suitable for presentation and publication. Residents are also required to participate in other ongoing research with the program director.
Application
The next available training period for this fellowship will be 2017 – 2019. Applications will not be accepted this year. For additional information regarding the program and the application process, please contact:

Cynthia Jackevicius, BScPhm, MSc, PharmD, FCSHP, BCPS (AQ Cardiology)
Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice and Administration
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Western University of Health Sciences
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Contact Us
Pharmacy Residency and Training Programs
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**PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Neurology**
West Los Angeles Healthcare Center:
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Clinical Pharmacist, Neurology and Neurosurgery
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**PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Ambulatory Care**
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System:
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**Pharmacy Fellowship in Cardiology**
Western University of Health Sciences
**Cynthia Jackevicius, BScPharm, MSc, PharmD, FCSHP, BCPS (AQ Cardiology)**
Program Director, Pharmacy Fellowship in Cardiology
Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice and Administration
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**Current Residents/Fellows:**

**PGY2 Pharmacy Residency, Neurology**
Grace Minassian, PharmD (2015 – 2016)
Grace.minassian@va.gov

**Pharmacy Fellowship in Cardiology**
David.lash@va.gov