

Residents' Roar

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Mark Your Calendar

39th Annual ASHP Midyear
Orlando Florida
December 5-9
Residency Showcase
Monday, December 6, 1-4 p.m.
Pitt Reception
Tuesday December 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Rosen Plaza Hotel

Contact Us

Please send news and/or
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Unique Opportunities for Pharmacists in the VA setting

Molly Englert, PharmD

The Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (VAHS) in Pittsburgh is among the largest facilities in the country serving our veterans. Divided among three sites in the Pittsburgh area, the VAHS encompasses acute, ambulatory, and long-term care and provides a rich learning environment for pharmacy residents and students. The VAHS offers a wide range of learning opportunities for pharmacy residents including research, integrated practice, and advanced technologies for providing patient care.

A unique aspect of the VAHS is the ability of credentialed pharmacists to prescribe anticoagulation therapy and order pertinent labs for medication monitoring and disease state management. This allows pharmacists to run the VAHS anticoagulation clinic and service thousands of veterans each year. Pharmacists are also consulted to manage other disease states including hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes mellitus. The dual role of pharmacists as clinicians and drug specialists throughout the VAHS is a vital component to providing quality patient care.



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School of Pharmacy Residents' Roar

Fall 2004

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Resident Editors

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Heather Kudis

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Amy Calabrese Donihi
Karen Steinmetz

Contributors

Molly Englert
Bonnie Falcione



2004-2005 Residency Class

New Infectious Diseases Specialty Residency Program

Bonnie Falcione, PharmD

This year, a new specialty residency program in Infectious Diseases (ID) was created at UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside by Brian Potoski, PharmD and Blair Capitano, PharmD, who serve as Co-Directors for the program. The primary goals for the resident upon completion of the ID Residency Program are to practice as an independent Infectious Diseases clinical pharmacist and to gain the necessary skills to develop, implement and establish a successful antibiotic management program (AMP) within an institution. To achieve these goals, the resident will work closely with infectious disease specialists in a variety of areas including the General ID Consult Service, the Transplant ID Consult Service, the Microbiology Laboratory, and Critical Care Medicine.

The first person to enter the ID residency is Bonnie Falcione, PharmD. Bonnie holds a BS and PharmD from Duquesne University and worked as a staff pharmacist, consultant pharmacist and clinical pharmacist at UPMC South Side. In addition, Bonnie recently

completed a Specialty Practice Pharmacy Residency in Critical Care at Allegheny General Hospital. In her new role as the ID resident, Bonnie will be evaluating patients' drug regimens with a focus on dosing recommendations for antimicrobials using pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic parameters. Also, she will be researching alternative therapies when first line agents are not suitable or when resistant organisms are identified. During the Microbiology Lab rotation, Bonnie will have the opportunity to learn how microorganisms are identified from clinical specimens and how antibiotic susceptibilities are determined. In addition to monthly rotations, a longitudinal AMP experience spanning the one-year residency was developed in collaboration with Dr. David Paterson of the Division of Infectious Diseases. As part of the AMP team, Bonnie will evaluate and approve requests from the medical staff for use of restricted antimicrobials at UPMC Presbyterian. Other longitudinal rotations include outpatient care in HIV and general infectious diseases. During these clinic rotations, Bonnie will be involved with patient counseling as well as making recommendations to optimize medication regimens.

The University of Pittsburgh
is an affirmative action, equal
opportunity institution.



Residents' Roar

Meet the Class of 2004-2005



Neal Benedict
Critical Care Specialty Resident

Neal graduated in 2002 with a PharmD from Duquesne University. He then completed a pharmacy practice residency with Kaleida Health in Buffalo, NY. Following his residency, he took a position with the Anticoagulation Service here at UPMC Presbyterian. Neal has always had a desire to teach, so upon completion of his critical care residency, he plans to pursue a career in academia. Outside of pharmacy, he enjoys golfing and weight training.



Bonnie Falcione
Infectious Diseases Specialty Resident

Bonnie earned a BS in Pharmacy at Duquesne University in 1994. She worked as a staff and consultant pharmacist at UPMC South Side until 1999 when she became a clinical pharmacist. She returned to Duquesne to earn her PharmD and subsequently accepted a Critical Care Residency at Allegheny General Hospital. She is excited to be the first ID pharmacy resident at UPMC and plans to pursue a faculty position in the future.



Gem Bustamante
Pharmacy Practice Resident (VAHS)

Gem is an alumnus of Midwestern University-Glendale and University of California-San Diego. She is married to Ronald Belczyk, DPM and has a 6-month old baby girl named Annick Natalia. Her family is enjoying the change in weather in Pittsburgh, but is somewhat apprehensive about what winter will bring. Gem wanted to do a residency so she can continue to learn additional skills and be exposed to new opportunities in pharmacy.



Timothy George
Pharmacy Practice Resident (UPMC)

Tim is originally from Wheeling, West Virginia and received his PharmD in May 2004 from West Virginia University. To enhance his clinical and academic skills, he decided to leave "Mountaineer Country" to pursue the pharmacy practice residency at UPMC. The program appealed to him because of its variety of opportunities and clinical experiences. He plans to pursue a specialty residency in Hematology and Oncology. Tim's outside interests include golf, running, and playing pool.



Molly Englert
Pharmacy Practice Resident (VAHS)

Molly grew up in McKeesport and was excited to return to the Pittsburgh area after a 6-year hiatus. Molly graduated from West Virginia University (WVU) this past May. Her interests in ambulatory care and diabetes education led her to pursue a residency with the VA Health System. Molly is engaged to a fellow Mountaineer classmate, Matt Walbrown, who is currently a pharmacy practice resident at WVU Hospital. They are planning their wedding for October 2005.



Suzanna Gim
Drug Information Specialty Resident

Suzanna graduated with a PharmD from the University of Maryland in 2004 and a BA from New York University in 1999. She chose this program because of its opportunities in academia, clinical care, and industry. She has a passion for learning and teaching and feels that drug information is the field that gives her the most opportunity for growth in both of these areas. She plans to pursue a position in industry or academia.

Residents' Roar

Meet the Class of 2004-2005



Heather Kudis
Family Practice Specialty Resident

Heather received her PharmD from Duquesne University in May 2004. She enjoys ambulatory care, where the role for clinical pharmacists is growing. Heather chose UPMC because it combined geriatrics and ambulatory care around collaborative practice relationships with physicians in a rich teaching environment. Heather plans to pursue a position in primary care. She enjoys spending time with family and is planning a wedding in October 2005.



Brian Miller
Pharmacy Practice Resident (UPMC)

Brian is originally from Wheeling, West Virginia and received his PharmD from Duquesne University in 2004. He came to UPMC in order to gain experience and enhance his clinical, teaching, and research skills. Brian plans to pursue a specialty residency in Hematology and Oncology. Brian enjoys weight lifting, participating in athletics, watching sports, and spending time with family and friends. Brian is getting married on September 10, 2005 at the Duquesne University Chapel.



Cory Murray
Pharmacy Practice Resident (UPMC)

Cory is from Ellwood City, north of Pittsburgh. He received his PharmD from Duquesne University in May 2004. Several clinical mentors helped him realize the positive drug therapy outcomes a clinical pharmacist can achieve working with physicians, nurses and other health professionals. This experience led him to pursue a residency. He has a strong interest in cardiology and infectious diseases. He plans to pursue a specialty residency following completion of this program.



Maria Pfeiffer
Pharmacy Practice Resident (VAHS)

Maria graduated from the University of Missouri-School of Pharmacy in Kansas City in May. Her goal for this year is to gather as much clinical experience and knowledge as possible and to have a positive impact on patient outcomes. After her residency, Maria plans to pursue specialized training in the research area of neuropathic pain. In her free time, she enjoys travel, scuba diving, and volunteering.



Brad Robinson
Pharmacy Benefits Management

Brad received a BS in Biology at the University of North Texas. After working for a few years in the environmental regulatory industry, he decided to go back to school to change career paths. He moved to Massachusetts where he earned his PharmD at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. During his various experiences at MCP, he found an interest in pharmacy benefits management, which propagated his pursuance of this managed-care residency program.



Kristin Zerumsky
Cardiology Specialty Resident

Kristin graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 2003. She completed her Pharmacy Practice Residency at UPMC this June. She developed a strong interest in cardiology while in school and during her residency. Kristin plans to pursue a faculty position upon completion of this residency. Her interests include inpatient and outpatient care of heart failure patients. Her outside interests include football (GO Eagles!), reading, and participating at underserved clinics.