



The Residents' Roar

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Current Programs & Residents

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Presenting... the 1st Edition

Ever wonder what's new with your resident colleagues? What exciting accomplishments/awards or new adventures they are embarking on? Curious to learn something about those following in your footsteps on the UPMC, VA, or Stadtlanders campuses? This University of Pittsburgh newsletter has been designed to address those questions. This is the first edition to what I hope will become a long standing tradition that will help link the new residents with the alumni and continue to keep everyone active in the residency programs.

At present the plan is to generate two publications per year – one in October and one in May. The request for this years' issues are for the fall issue to focus on the introduction of the incoming resident class and upcoming changes to the programs. The spring newsletter will focus more on all previous/past resident information provided prior to the publication date. To kick off the first newsletter, all program directors were contacted for participation. Requests were made for updates on program structure, for a list of all alumni and addresses, and a biosketch provided by the current residents. What follows is the information received prior to press time. I hope that you enjoy getting to know the current class and that you will mark your calendars to contribute to the spring issue.

Respectfully, Mary

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UPMCHS Pharmacy Practice **Mary Hess, Pharm.D., Program Director**

As you know, the UPMCHS is always making changes and two years ago, and I was asked to provide leadership to the resident program. As I prepared to take over the leadership of the program, the first major event facing me was accreditation which occurred in October. Therefore, I had to quickly make some design changes to the program which included, adjusting rotation options, altering the evaluation format, inserting a more comprehensive teaching experience, and to insert a more rigorous educational series. As a result, a number of rotations were offered in both a traditional block format or through a longitudinal experience whereby the goals were clearly outlined and would be accomplished throughout the entire year. This allowed the residents to continue to build upon a desired practice base or to become exposed to more clinical environments. Because of the changes in the rotations, the evaluation tools also needed to be modified. The teaching experience was defined as provision of 2-4 hours of course contact time and each resident now serves as a primary preceptor for two PharmD candidates on an internal medicine rotation. They receive input and mentoring when they request it from the clinical faculty specialist. In order to prepare them, an educational series was designed to provide the basic concepts for teaching, research, and other research experiences.

Through these efforts and those of all the past resident participants, the residency program underwent its second accreditation survey. Comments provided indicated significant improvements from the original survey conducted with respect to both the operations of the department of pharmacy and the overall structure of the program. In March the credentialing committee granted all of the UPMCHS programs undergoing accreditation a full six year status. So what are this years challenges? For starters this is the largest pharmacy practice class yet at four. In addition to the coordination challenges that exist in meeting the needs of the residents, there are 101 PharmD candidates looking for clerkship sites creating quite a shortage for individual resident rotations. The program will also expand along with the department to provide select at clinical services at both the Oakland and Shadyside campuses of our health system. I think the design is finally complete—hopefully with no kinks!! I believe that coordinating services in two separate facilities will place enough stress on the system and therefore am not looking to make many other changes this year.

Daisy Chung, Pharm.D. **UPMC Pharmacy Practice Resident** chungd@msx.upmc.edu

Daisy is one of the Pharmacy Practice Residents at UPMCHS. She comes from the small town of Holmdel, New Jersey. Daisy initially started as a Biology/Pre-med major at Rutgers University, Rutgers College. However, after the first few years of college, she decided that pharmacy was where she belonged. In Fall of 1995, she enrolled in the pharmacy program at Rutgers University, College of Pharmacy. She graduated this past May with a BS/PharmD.

Some of Daisy's rotations in pharmacy school included: pediatric hematology-oncology, internal medicine, critical care, drug information, managed care, and industry. These rotations offered her the opportunity to see different aspects of pharmacy. However, she enjoyed the clinical hospital rotations the most. Shortly before her arrival at UPMCHS, Daisy also worked as a part-time staff pharmacist at Contrastate Medical Center in New Jersey.

For this residency year, Daisy would like to improve her clinical skills, gain teaching and precepting experience, and work on various health-system projects. She would like to do research and publish as well. In the future, she hopes to be a clinical pharmacy specialist and teach at a university.

Aside from pharmacy, Daisy likes to bake and cook in her free time. However, she admits that the cooking part needs some perfecting. She also likes to watch professional sports, especially basketball and tennis.



Want to contribute to the Spring Issue?
See page 4 for details!

Sheel Patel, Pharm.D.

UPMCHS Pharmacy Practice Resident
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Sheel Patel is from Danville, a small town in central Pennsylvania. She graduated from high school in June 1993 and entered pharmacy school in August of that year at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. While attending PCPS, she tracked into the Doctor of Pharmacy Program. She felt that her education would provide a wide area of opportunity for her future career. In July of 1998, she became part of the school's history when PCPS changed its name to The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Sheel graduated with both her Bachelor of Pharmacy and Doctorate of Pharmacy in May 1999.

Sheel has spent the last four years as a pharmacy intern for CVS pharmacy. After receiving her pharmacy license, she worked as a pharmacist for CVS, also. During the last year of pharmacy school, she had many promising rotations including pediatrics, drug information, ambulatory care, general medicine and industry. Through all the different experiences she realized that a clinical involvement with patients and other health care professionals in a hospital setting is what she enjoyed the most.

During the residency program, Sheel hopes to develop her clinical skills, participate in a research project and interact with students as a preceptor and faculty member. Sheel also tries to find time for activities outside of pharmacy such as playing the piano, exercising, cooking and going to cultural exhibits and shows.

Justine M. Schuller, PharmD

UPMCHS Pharmacy Practice Resident
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Justine is a native of Moon Township who decided to move back to the Pittsburgh area after receiving her Pharm.D from Purdue University. She began pharmacy school in West Lafayette, IN during the fall of 1993. Justine knew that she wanted a career in health care where she could assist patients on a daily basis, work on a multi-disciplinary team, and have unlimited opportunities available to her.

Before she came to UPMC, she had a unique variety of experiences in pharmacy. Like most students, she spent some time in retail pharmacy- two summers with Thrift Drug.

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Schuller, continued.

Unlike others, she worked in a mail order pharmacy facility for another internship. Finally, the summer before her last didactic year, she compounded radiopharmaceuticals at Syncor in Pittsburgh, a nuclear pharmacy. These previously mentioned experiences were valuable, but she found that she enjoyed the hospital floors more during her clinical rotations in IM and trauma and working as a teaching assistant and grader during the school year. Clinical pharmacy and education was where she felt her passions were.

During this year of residency, she hopes to further develop her skills as a clinician, become involved in health system projects, understand operations, precept students, and teach at the university. She feels that becoming involved in "the team" at the medical center and university will help her become a well-rounded pharmacist and refine her skills and experience needed to succeed. In the future, she hopes to become a clinician in a university or community teaching hospital and precept students.

Justine's outside interests include music, Broadway, fitness, and sports. During school, she became a nationally certified aerobics instructor by American Council on Exercise and taught group fitness for fun and "pay the bills". If she ever tires of pharmacy, she hopes to host a fitness / health show on ESPN.

Emily Wade, Pharm.D.

UPMCHS Pharmacy Practice Resident
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Emily is originally from Point Pleasant, WV; a small town situated on the Ohio River. She moved to Morgantown, WV, for college and spent the next six years at WVU. She did two years of pre-pharmacy, obtained a BS degree in pharmacy, and through the track-in program graduated this year with a Pharm.D. degree.

Emily's father is a physician, so she grew-up seeing both the good and bad aspects of being involved in health care. Early on Emily decided that she was more interested in the profession of pharmacy than pursuing a career as a physician.

In 1993, the summer before Emily started college, she shadowed her father in his office. Then, in the summer of 1995, prior to entering pharmacy (continued on page 4)

Wade, continued.

school, Emily worked as a technician in a hospital in Point Pleasant. The following summer she was able to obtain some retail pharmacy experience at Fruth Pharmacy in Point Pleasant. For two of Emily's externship rotations to fulfill her BS Pharm requirement, she was able to move to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. Her first month she worked at City Hospital in Martinsburg, WV. The second month was spent working at an independently owned pharmacy, Jefferson Pharmacy. Starting in May 1998, Emily began eleven months of PharmD rotations. She experienced Ruby Memorial Hospital (a.k.a. WVU Hospital) in Morgantown, WV; a family medicine practice also in Morgantown; the VA in Huntington, WV; and several branches of Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, WV.

Emily has discovered that she has many areas of interest. She hopes to use this year to learn more in each field and perhaps choose an area in which to specialize. Teaching and conducting research are two other points of interest for Emily. She has found both experiences to be frustrating at times, but extremely rewarding overall. Emily also hopes to continue some of her favorite activities – snow skiing, jogging, weight lifting, and swimming. However, the year is promising to be very busy, so she will have to put her time management skills to the test.



CALLING for contributions for the spring edition: No one is too remote to contribute to the next edition. Please make a note in your Franklin planner that many of you probably have by now to jot interesting items for submission. The format is wide open to whatever you would like to contribute – professional/personal accomplishments, new activities, awards/recognition, etc.

Please submit your pieces by April 15th either by e-mail or fax to Justine Schuller at schullerj@msx.upmc.edu or fax at 412-647-1441.

UPMCHS Ambulatory Care

Richard Ptachcinski, Pharm.D., Program Director

I am pleased to have the UPMCHS Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency enter its eighth year. The entire Ambulatory Faculty is committed to making the year an enlightening experience. Just as health care is dynamic and in continual evolution, the residency program continues to develop. However, several areas continue to be the hallmarks of our program. One facet of the Ambulatory Care Residency continues to be constant is the focus on the individual experience of each resident. While the residency has core experiences, each resident selects experiences that develop areas of particular interest. Residents have elected to focus on education, family medicine, managed care and community pharmacy practice. Another consistent focus of the Ambulatory Care Residency is in participating in programs where the pharmacist is *responsible* for the care of patients. New programs are developed with the commitment that they will continue to be an integral part of the care of our patients. While the residency is focused on Ambulatory Care, the program supports a seamless transition between inpatient and outpatient care. Finally, the residency project completed by the Ambulatory Care attempt to answer therapeutic questions to improve the care being provided to patients in the ambulatory environment.

I am excited about the challenges and opportunities that are being presented for the Ambulatory Care Program and Residency. Our residents are afforded a unique opportunity to be part of a rapidly developing segment of the UPMC Health System. Expansion plans for the near future include; expansion of the Pharmaceutical Care Clinic and its services to the UPMCHS Affiliate Hospitals; opening of several new outpatient pharmacies, a Long-Term Care Pharmacy Program; Physician-based clinical pharmacy services; new programs for drug therapy management in the elderly and other populations, clinical services for rehabilitation patients; Complimentary and Alternative Medicine Programs; national transplant pharmacy partnerships; and new Managed Care programs.

The balance of an established program with new opportunities for growth provides the Ambulatory Care Resident at UPMCHS a foundation for success in any type of ambulatory pharmacy setting.

Jeffrey Brewer, Pharm.D.

UPMCHS Ambulatory Care Resident

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Jeffrey Michael Brewer grew up in Southern Maryland, 45 minutes southeast of Washington D.C. and one hour southwest of Baltimore. Growing up, he was interested in helping people and was intrigued by the opportunities available in the health profession. During high school, a love for chemistry and his interest in helping others led to pharmacy. After completing his pre-pharmacy course work at Frostburg State University (a University of Maryland affiliate). He went on to complete his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Upon graduating, he moved to Chicago and finished a pharmacy practice residency with an emphasis in ambulatory care. Figuring that he had not been punished enough, Jeff moved to Pittsburgh (with his new wife) to begin his ambulatory care specialty residency.

His work experience includes, being a hospital pharmacy technician and volunteering at several primary care clinics during his last two years at Maryland. Jeff's favorite rotations consist of smoking cessation, asthma and diabetes clinics. His major accomplishments include "Waiting to Inhale" a how-to-guide for novice asthma educators" currently used in the curriculum at Maryland; a poster presentation at the School of Pharmacy research day entitled "Pharmacy in the secondary schools: a needs assessment"; his residency project, scheduled to be published by next year, "Does the addition of a Diabetes Case Manager to an existing primary care team, affect the patient's diabetes control" and his Eagle Scout badge from the Boy Scouts of America.

Teaching has always been a dream of Jeff's and he would like to focus his specialty residency in this area. His ideal job would combine a clinical practice with teaching pharmacy students. Jeff enjoys the outdoors, reading, water skiing and playing with Rascal, his German Shephard/Lab mix.

UPMCHS Drug Information

Jill Brufsy, Pharm.D., Program Director

Laurel Evers Riemann, Pharm.D.

UPMCHS Drug Information Resident

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Laurel Riemann is from Wilmington, North Carolina. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). During this time, she worked in a research lab. As a result of this experience, she initially wanted to obtain a Ph.D. degree in toxicology. She worked as a research fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and as a research technician at Duke University Medical Center for the next 2 years. She then entered pharmacy school at UNC-CH because she decided that she wanted a more interpersonal career that would offer diverse opportunities for growth.

Laurel obtained the Pharm.D degree from UNC-CH. In addition to receiving a well-rounded education, she completed a research project entitled "Treatment Gap in Lipid Lowering Therapy". After completing her clinical rotations at the Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville, North Carolina, she moved to Pittsburgh and completed a pharmacy practice residency at the UPMC. During this residency, she obtained clinical experience in diverse areas of practice including liver transplantation. She completed an outcomes study entitled "Outcomes and Utilization Patterns of Gabapentin for Bipolar Disorder" and worked on a clinical research project entitled "Relationship between Phenotypic Activity of CYP 2C9 and (S)-warfarin pharmacokinetics".

She is currently the Drug Information resident at the UPMCHS. During this year, she would like to strengthen her editing, writing, research, and teaching skills. She plans on taking two statistics courses through the School of Public Health, serving on the Investigational Review Board as a reviewer, and serving as a journal reviewer to this end. Ultimately, she would like a challenging position incorporating medical writing & editing, outcomes research, and teaching in either academia or industry.



UPMCHS Oncology

Rowena Schwartz, Pharm.D. Program Director

Laura Jung, Pharm.D.

UPMCHS Oncology Resident

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Laura Jung is originally from the small town of Etowah in western North Carolina. She became interested in pharmacy during Governor's School, a summer program she participated in while she was in high school. It was the first time someone put biology and chemistry together for her in a way that began to explain how drugs work in the body. She pursued pharmacy as a career and obtained her BS in Pharmacy from UNC-Chapel Hill. Laura then moved to Charleston, SC and received her Pharm.D. with first honors from the Medical University of South Carolina. She then decided to stay at MUSC for a Pharmacy Practice Residency.

Laura's work experience in the field of pharmacy began with her two-year internship at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC. During her BS program, she completed her clinical rotations at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, NC. On one of these rotations, she was part of an interdisciplinary medical outreach program. This program assisted with providing medical care to the rural populations of eastern NC. During her Pharm.D. program and residency, Laura's rotations were completed at sites within MUSC, including the adult and children's hospitals and the Institute of Psychiatry. While she was at MUSC, Laura co-authored and published a review article on the use of gabapentin in bipolar disorder in *Pharmacotherapy*. In addition, she completed a research project investigating the use of heliox to improve albuterol delivery in an *in vitro* mechanically ventilated pediatric lung model.

Dr. Jung's goals during this residency are: 1) to develop a solid knowledge base in oncology and continue to refine and expand her current clinical skills; 2) to learn to teach students and other health care providers effectively; 3) to improve her writing and publishing skills; 4) to have more exposure to research; 5) and to become an essential part of a health care team. Her career goals are to obtain a position as a clinical specialist in oncology at a major academic institution with possible research involvement.

Laura's hobbies include reading (non-medical stuff), hiking, whitewater rafting, and cooking. She is also an avid mortar and pestle and antique medicine (continued on next column)

Jung, continued.

bottle collector. Her most recent hobby is the art of taekwondo, as her husband is a master in this field.

James J. Natale, Pharm.D.

UPMCHS Oncology Resident

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James J. Natale was born in New Castle, PA, a small town about 50 miles north of Pittsburgh. He spent most of his life there until he moved to Pittsburgh in the fall of 1990, starting in the BS pharmacy program at Duquesne University. He graduated in 1995 with his BS in pharmacy, but would return to Duquesne in the fall of 1997. James entered into the last graduating post-baccalaureate PharmD class at Duquesne University. He graduated with his Pharm.D. this past summer and decided to specialize in the field of oncology.

Between '95 and '97, James worked as a primary care pharmacist at the Butler VAMC. There, he was responsible for providing pharmaceutical care for approximately 4000 veterans who were assigned to his team. At the VA, he was recognized with the "Rookie of the Year" award, given to the first-year employee who has the most impact of his service. James found this work experience was one of the major factors prompting him to return to school to obtain his PharmD.

James's career goals are to develop his own clinical oncology program at a university-based institution as well as become part of the clinical faculty. In order to meet these goals, he felt a residency was essential. James believes that this residency program will provide him with a solid knowledge base in the area of oncology as well as sharpen his hands-on clinical skills. The residency will also provide him with ample opportunities to enhance his teaching skills.

In his spare time, James loves to GOLF. He could be called "a fanatic". He also enjoys most other sports, especially basketball (he played one year at Duquesne). James's favorite spare time activity though is spending time with his wife and their nieces and nephews!!!

Going to ASHP? Please stop by and visit us at the Residency Showcase on Monday at F2!

VA Pharmacy Practice

Sherrie Aspinall, Pharm.D. Program Director

This is the fifth year for the pharmacy practice residency, and the fifth year with Sherrie as director. They were very fortunate to be funded for two residency positions starting last year, which significantly enhanced the experience for the staff and the residents. They also expanded their involvement in the acute care area with the addition of Matt Kruszewski, Pharm.D. as a practitioner in internal medicine. Matt joins Stephanie Scavnicky, Pharm.D. as a preceptor in acute care. Sherrie continues to work with the infectious disease team and in anticoagulation.

On a personal note, Sherrie is still playing tennis regularly and will be captain for her USTA team for the coming year.

Karen Laughlin, Pharm.D.

VA Pharmacy Practice Resident

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Karen Laughlin is from Richmond, Virginia and attended pharmacy school at Midwestern University in Downers Grove, Illinois. She earned her B.S. in Pharmacy from Midwestern in May of 1998 and a Pharm.D. in May of 1999. Her interest in pharmacy arose from a desire to make an impact on patient care. She believes that the pharmacy profession affords her the opportunity to work with patients to develop the most beneficial means of meeting their needs as well as the opportunity to become an integral member of the health care community.

As a student, Karen's work experience included both community and hospital settings as a pharmacy technician. She conducted research in gene transfection at the University of Chicago and was involved in a study looking at sedatives in the MICU at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Lukes Hospital in Chicago. As a result of her involvement in research, she was awarded the Perrigo Award for Nonprescription Research Studies from Midwestern University. While completing her Pharm.D., she particularly enjoyed her kidney transplant and her cardiology rotations.

Upon completing her residency, she hopes to become more familiar with various specialties within a hospital or clinical practice as well as have a better idea of the different roles a pharmacist can play in a multi-institutional setting. She also hopes to achieve a
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Laughlin, continued.

broad foundation on which to build the rest of her career as a pharmacist and believes that the residency program will afford her the skills and knowledge-base to contribute fully as a health care professional in her future endeavors. As for the future, she has a strong interest in pursuing a career as a clinical specialist and is considering a specialty residency after completing her pharmacy practice residency.

Nina Naeger, Pharm.D.

VA Pharmacy Practice Resident

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Nina Naeger is one of the pharmacy practice residents at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She is originally from Crabtree, Pennsylvania. She became interested in the healthcare professions in high school when she was volunteering at a local hospital. Her interests became more focused on pharmacy, however, after attending the Pennsylvania Governor's School of Excellence for the Healthcare Professions at UPMC the summer before her senior year. She attended Duquesne University School of Pharmacy and obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in August 1998. She tracked into the Doctor of Pharmacy program in 1997 and obtained this degree in May 1999.

Her work experience throughout school consisted mainly of work in the retail pharmacy sector. She worked at two different independent pharmacies and one chain pharmacy for which she still works on a casual basis. She also occasionally volunteered at a local hospital pharmacy near her hometown. Her favorite rotations in the Doctor of Pharmacy program were infectious disease, critical care and pharmacokinetics. Her major accomplishments include graduating cum-laude (B.S. Pharm.), the Pittsburgh Italian Club Extraordinary Award, Duquesne University Presidential Merit Award, Pennsylvania Pharmacist's Association Award and several other scholarships.

Her main residency goals include increasing her confidence and experience in providing and promoting optimal drug therapy for patients, becoming an effective educator of pharmacy students and other healthcare professionals, and gaining skill that will allow her to develop, implement and participate in specialized pharmacy services. Her future career goals include becoming an effective provider of

Naeger, continued.

pharmaceutical care in either an acute care or ambulatory care setting, to be involved in pharmacy education on the university level, and to possibly pursue a specialized residency.

Her outside interests include ballet, theater, jogging, cooking and learning how to play the piano.

Stadtlander's Managed Care Residency

Gordon Vanscoy, MBA, Pharm.D., Program Director

Lidia Gajewski-Verbanac, Pharm.D., Assistant Program Director

In 1991, Gordon Vanscoy founded the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's Specialty Residency in Drug Information, where he served as residency director for five years. As health care and his career evolved into the managed care arena, he established the Advanced Managed Care Pharmacy Residency in 1995. This residency was created as a result of a unique relationship between the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and Stadtlanders Pharmacy. The program provides residents with real-life specialty pharmacy practice experience in various key aspects of managed care, while remaining strongly grounded in business and science. The residency is co-ordinated by Dr. Lidia Gajewski-Verbanac, with Dr. Vanscoy serving as director of the program. Preceptorship is a shared responsibility among the clinical specialists within Stadtlanders' Disease Management Division giving residents the opportunity to learn from their experts in each of their respective areas of specialty.

Since the establishment of the Advanced Managed Care Pharmacy Residency in 1995, four residents have successfully completed the program. These individuals continue to excel in various leadership positions within managed care pharmacy, including positions with high-profile payors and specialty pharmacy practice. In fact, two of our residents have joined our growing team of clinical specialists at Stadtlander's Pharmacy. Stadtlander's is proud of our residents' accomplishments and feel that their continued success is a testament not only to their professional skills and motivation, but to the quality of the residency program itself. This year they feel fortunate to once again have two highly motivated and enthusiastic residents, Pam Koerner and Erin Conley. Although Pam and Erin have "big shoes to fill", they

have already gotten off to a stellar start and the directors at Stadtlander's are confident that they will succeed in accomplishing the goals of the program.

In the year 2000, Stadtlander's expects to offer at least two residency positions. They will be recruiting via the ASHP Personal Placement Service at the Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) in Orlando, FL. The recruitment of suitable resident candidates is a highly selective process. They will look for highly motivated, goal-directed professionals with a strong desire to achieve. If you are interested in learning more about the Advanced Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Program, please contact Dr. Vanscoy or Dr. Gajewski-Verbanac in advance of the upcoming MCM. They look forward to hearing from you!

Erin Conley, Pharm.D.

Stadtlander's Managed Care Resident

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Erin Conley, a native of Allentown, Pennsylvania, is a 1999 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. She decided to pursue a career in pharmacy during her candy-stripping days at her local hospital when she discovered her strong interest in healthcare. She knew that she wanted to have some part in making the lives of patients better.

Erin has pursued a number of traditional and non-traditional internships and rotations throughout her time in pharmacy school. Her favorite rotations include time spent at the American Pharmaceutical Association in Washington, D.C. and experience as a student at the Food and Drug Administration. She also enjoyed her work on a retrospective study during a rotation at Pitt in outcomes research. In addition to her rotation sites, Erin values her internship experience at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic that fostered her interest in psychopharmacy. She also considers her time as a Drug Use Disease State Management (DUDSM) intern at UPMC very important because it led to her strong interest in disease state management. Erin spent a summer with SmithKline Beecham Consumer Healthcare where she was involved in projects with the Rx-to-OTC Switch Development group.

During her residency at Stadtlanders, Erin will be exposed to specialty pharmacy and population-based disease state management. She will also gain business experience through the company's relationships with pharmaceutical companies and managed care organizations. She hopes to become more fluent in the disease states in which Stadtlander's

Conley, continued.

specializes, including HIV, transplant, infertility, and serious mental illness. Erin hopes to develop a better understanding of many business issues and strategies as well as refining her project management skills.

In her leisure time, Erin enjoys any outdoor activities. She loves to jog and is currently attempting to learn some mountain biking skills. Camping and hiking are favorite activities in the warm months as well as traveling to warm locations whenever possible.

**Pam Hucko Koerner, Pharm.D.
Stadtländer's Managed Care Resident**
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Pamela Hucko Koerner grew up in the South Hills area of Pittsburgh. She entered pharmacy school at Duquesne University in 1992. Deciding to track into the Doctor of Pharmacy program, she finished her Bachelors degree in 1997 and her Pharm.D. degree in 1998. Pam chose the pharmacy profession because she felt that it was a career where she could have a large impact on patient care. The ability to help and educate others was what attracted her most to the field of pharmacy.

Her intern hours were acquired at the Medicine Shoppe in Carrick. She continued to work there as a Pharmacist while finishing her Pharm.D degree. Following that, Pam completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at West Virginia University Hospital. Currently she is a managed care specialty resident at Stadtländers. She stated that she did not have a particularly favorite rotation in school or in her pharmacy practice residency. All her rotations offered many interesting and unique experiences. She particularly liked the exposure she received to many different hospitals during her rotations at Duquesne.

Her goal in completing this residency is to gain a better understanding of managed care and disease state management. She hopes to see first hand how both areas have a direct impact on patient therapy and therefor-patient care. It is difficult for her to project where she will be after this year primarily because of the variety of opportunities currently available in the field. Her career goal is to acquire a position where she can utilize her clinical skills to impact the care of patients. She would also like to be actively participating in the field of education

Pam's outside interest is playing golf. She was a competitive golfer when in school and she loves the opportunity to be outside on these beautiful days.

UPMCHS Critical Care

Mary Hess, Pharm.D., Program Director

I would refer you to the pharmacy practice description as the events and changes were nearly mirror images in the critical care program as well. This program is run by committee involving input from all of the critical care specialists here which now number four. As a result we are now able to subfocus the residency program in the direction of any of these specialty areas which include: transplantation, cardiology, neurology, and medicine. The notable difference this past year was that we actually filled the position. After a two year hiatus, we found another critical care star to carry on our tradition of exceptional residents. There was no shortage of productivity this year as Simone blazed a path that kept all critical care practitioners quite busy. Despite the exceptional year and the accreditation results, we elected not to fill the position again this year secondary to lack of qualified candidates.

Happy Halloween!

