

VAMHCS PGY1 and PGY2 Pharmacy Residency – Preceptor Biographies 2020-21

Dr. Alex Accinelli received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The University of Maryland Eastern Shore in 2017. He completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore in 2018, and a PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency at the VA Maryland Health Care System in 2019. Upon completion of his residency he obtained a position at the VAMHCS as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. He is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS).

Dr. Merid Belayneh received a B.A. in Chemistry from Georgia State University in 2007 and a Doctor of Pharmacy from the Virginia Commonwealth University in 2013. He completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency at the VAMHCS from 2013 -2015. Upon completion of his residency he obtained a position at the VAMHCS as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. He is the current PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Coordinator.

Dr. Frank Cintineo received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2014. He completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with the VA Maryland Health Care System in 2015. Upon completion of residency, Dr. Cintineo accepted a position as the cardiology clinical pharmacy specialist for the VAMHCS. He is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS).

Dr. Rohini Davé received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 2014. During pharmacy school she completed the VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) internship at the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS). She then completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency in 2015 and a PGY2 Infectious Disease residency in 2016, both at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, IL. Upon completion of her residencies, she returned to the VAMHCS as the Antimicrobial Stewardship/Infectious Disease Clinical Pharmacy Specialist.

Dr. Christina Dickson received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2004. Following graduation, she completed a Specialty Residency in Ambulatory Care at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. Dr. Dickson stayed on at the Baltimore VA Medical Center as a clinical pharmacist in the primary care clinics. She then established the clinical pharmacist role in the Hepatitis C Clinics over 10 years ago and is now the Hepatitis Pharmacy Program Manager working with the ID and GI Hepatology services. Dr. Dickson also serves as the VISN 5 Hepatic Innovation Team Coordinator working to improve the care of Veterans with advanced liver disease.

Dr. Ditrick received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Florida in 2009. Following graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at Orlando VA Medical Center, and an ASHP-accredited PGY-2 Psychiatry Residency at North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System in Gainesville, FL. Dr. Ditrick established a clinical pharmacy specialist role in the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MH RRTP) at Perry Point VAMC. Her practice consists of mental health care for Veterans in three residential rehabilitation programs: 1) Domiciliary, 2) Psychosocial, and 3) Substance Abuse.

Dr. Meera Embran received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 2009. Following graduation, she completed a one-year ambulatory care focused PGY1 residency at the Boston VA Healthcare System. She has worked at the VA Maryland Healthcare System since 2011 with a focus in primary care and rheumatology. She is a board certified ambulatory care pharmacist (BCACP). She is also currently enrolled in a two-year Integrative Medicine fellowship through AWCIM, which she will complete in February 2021.

Chris Gallagher, PharmD Earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of Maryland in 1997. He completed a General Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Tucson, AZ VAMC from 1997-1998. He was the Clinical Pharmacist at the Cambridge Community Based Outpatient Clinic from 1998-2000. He worked in the Anticoagulation, Medication Management and Refill clinics at the Baltimore VAMC from 2000-2003. In 2003, he began working as the Pharmacoconomist and continued in the Anticoagulation clinic and Infectious Diseases Outpatient clinic at VAMHCS. In 2016, he became the Associate Chief of Pharmacy for Clinical Practice.

Dr. John Gardner, PharmD, PhD, received his bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology at the University of Colorado, and his PhD in Biochemistry and Genetics at the Johns Hopkins University. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and held faculty positions at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor Maine, Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, and the University of Arizona Medical Center at Tucson. Dr. Gardner graduated from the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy and was a clinical staff pharmacist at the Carilion Clinic for 8 years where he specialized in acute care for the elderly, palliative care and pain management. He joined the VAMHCS Palliative Care Consult Team in 2016 and is a board certified geriatric pharmacotherapist. Dr. Gardner's current interests focus on applications of pharmacogenomics, pain management, hospice and palliative pharmacy care.

Dr. Courtney Henry received her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Hampton University School of Pharmacy in 2017. After graduation, Dr. Henry completed her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Maryland Health Care System. After residency, she worked as a Clinical Pharmacist (inpatient) for a year before transitioning to a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Internal Medicine. Dr. Henry is board certified as a pharmacotherapy specialist (BCPS). Her interests include transitions of care, medication safety, and hospital pharmacy. She has an adjunct faculty appointment with Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy and is an active member of ASHP serving on committees with the New Practitioner's Forum. She is also a Veteran who served in the US Navy.

Dr. Katie Hess received a B.A. from the University of Colorado in 2003 and a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy in 2007. Following graduation, she completed a one-year Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Lebanon VA Medical Center in Lebanon, PA. Dr. Hess then joined the clinical pharmacy service at the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) in July 2008 as a clinical pharmacy specialist in internal medicine. Areas of interest include renal, infectious disease, and patient education. Dr. Hess holds board certification as a pharmacotherapy specialist (BCPS) and has appointments with University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy and Notre Dame of Maryland, School of Pharmacy as a clinical assistant professor.

Ms. Joan Haywood received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 1981. She completed 15 post-graduate credits at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's Institutional Pharmacy program in 1984 under the direction of Dr. Peter P. Lamy. Following graduation, she was employed at the University of Maryland Cancer Center (currently the Greenebaum Cancer Center) where she participated in cardiac/respiratory emergencies, monitored aminoglycoside dosing, participated in daily oncology rounds and developed and opened an oncology clinic satellite pharmacy. Ms. Haywood left the Cancer Center in 1985 to continue her career at the Baltimore VA Medical Center where she implemented the Intravenous Admixture Service and the Investigational Drug Service. She served on the University of Maryland Institutional Review Board from 2000 until 2005. In 2007, Ms. Haywood accepted a position as the Pharmacy Manager for SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center at the University of Maryland Biopark. There, she developed a clinical research pharmacy service and implemented USP797. She served as a sub-investigator on several clinical drug trials. In 2010, she returned to the VAMHCS as a clinical pharmacy specialist for Surgical Service. Her areas of interest include geriatric pharmacy, clinical drug trials and medication safety. Ms. Haywood is a Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) and Registered Pharmacist Immunizer.

Dr. Anita Henderson, PharmD, BCACP received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Purdue University College of Pharmacy in 2015. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, IL in 2016. She then completed a PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at the VA Maryland Healthcare System in 2017. After completion of residency, Dr. Henderson obtained a position at the VAMHCS at the Perry Point Medical Center as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist.

Dr. Nnenna Iheagwara received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of Sciences in Philadelphia-Philadelphia College of Pharmacy (USP- PCP) in 2004. After graduating from pharmacy school, Dr. Iheagwara completed her PGY1 General Pharmacy Practice Residency at Christiana Care Health Care System in Newark, Delaware (2004-2005) and a PGY2 Specialty Residency in Primary Care at the Baltimore VA Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland (2005-2006). Dr. Iheagwara accepted a clinical pharmacy specialist position in ambulatory care in 2006. She continues to work in this capacity. As public health is one of her areas of focus, she earned a Master's in Public Health in Health Policy and Management at New York Medical College School of Health Science and Practice in 2014. She currently holds board certification in both pharmacotherapy (BCPS) and advanced diabetes management (BCADM).

Dr. Kelly (Li) Kang received her B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Maryland College Park in 2009 and Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 2013. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 2014, where she remained as a Clinical Inpatient/Outpatient Pharmacist. Currently, she is an Academic Detailing Clinical Pharmacy Specialist for VISN 5 at VA Maryland Health Care System. Her current focus areas are Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) and the Opioid Safety Initiative (OSI). She works alongside VAMHCS administration and staff to increase opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution through staff education, creating patient education resources, and various program implementation strategies. She also maintains a clinical practice in the Anticoagulation Clinic at VAMHCS and is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS).

Dr. Cindy Kim-Kruer received a B.A from Smith College in 1996. After graduation she spent several years working on research projects, one of which was published in 2005. She received a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy in 2006. Following graduation, Dr. Kim completed a Specialty Residency in Geriatrics at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System. She briefly worked in the community as a clinical pharmacy consultant with Omnicare, before she joined the VA Maryland Healthcare System in July 2008 in geriatrics. Dr. Kim currently has a dual role of clinical pharmacy specialist in both Home Based Primary Care and Hospice/Palliative Care.

Dr. Karen Korch Black received her BS Pharmacy from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 1995 and Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 1997. She completed a Specialized Residency in Ambulatory Care at the VA San Francisco. Dr. Korch Black subsequently worked as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA Northern California Health Care System at McClellan Air Force Base where she established an anticoagulation clinic, lipid clinic and smoking cessation clinic. She also practiced in Home Based Primary Care and the Geriatric Evaluation Management Clinic. In 2003 she transferred to the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) Baltimore, where she established the Lipid Risk Reduction Clinic, Cardiology Pharmacy Clinic and Emergency Care Pharmacotherapy Clinic. In 2005 she was appointed as the Assistant Chief of Pharmacy, Baltimore. In this position she created the Pharmacy Service Immunization Influenza Program and established the VAMHCS VALOR Program. In 2008 she switched back to her passion for clinical pharmacy practice and was appointed the PGY 2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Director. Her areas of interest include cardiovascular risk reduction, geriatrics, interdisciplinary residency education and administration. In 2019, she established the VAMHCS PGY 2 Geriatrics Pharmacy Residency Program. Dr. Korch Black is a Board-Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP) and a Board-Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) and holds appointments as Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and Notre Dame University of Maryland. Dr. Korch-Black serves as the VAMHCS PGY 2 Pharmacy Residency Programs Director.

Dr. Stephanie M. Ozalas, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology from the Richard Stockton University of New Jersey and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University, where she completed her honors thesis on potentially inappropriate medications in older adults. She then completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice residency at the VA Maryland Health Care System and a PGY-2 Geriatrics Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Maryland School Of Pharmacy. Dr. Ozalas currently works as a Long-Term Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Loch Raven VA Community Living Center; in which she precepts pharmacy students and residents. She also is the Residency Program Coordinator for the VAMHCS PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program. Her professional interests include geriatrics, long-term care, transitions in care, academia, and palliative care. She was also selected to become a Lamy Champion with the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging to help develop clinical and educational initiatives to advance geriatric care in the state of Maryland and beyond.

Dr. Kate Perez, PharmD, BCGP, received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy in 2000. Following graduation, she completed a one-year Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Chicago Health Care System. Dr. Perez stayed on at the VA Chicago as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care and Clinical Inpatient Pharmacy. In 2002 she transferred to the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) - Baltimore Campus where she established the Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Service. This service has now expanded to include 4 Clinical Pharmacy Specialists who are part of the Interdisciplinary Internal Medicine Care Team. In 2009, she was appointed PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency Program Director. She is a peer reviewer for *The Senior Care Pharmacist*, the online journal of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacist (ASCP). Her practice interests include adult internal medicine, geriatrics, infectious disease, cost-savings and patient safety. Dr. Perez is a Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) and holds an appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Sarah Pierce is a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP). She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 2012. While a student, she completed the VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) internship at the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS). She then completed her PGY1 Pharmacy residency at the VAMHCS in 2013 and her PGY2 Ambulatory Care residency at the VAMHCS in 2014. Upon completion of her residency she obtained a position at the VAMHCS as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. She serves as the Pharmacy PACT Coordinator for the VAMHCS, working to expand and standardize PACT pharmacy practice across sites. Dr. Pierce is a member of the national VHA CPPO PACT Subject Matter Expert Workgroup, serving as the co-chair of the Role Expansion and Education subgroup. Her practice areas include primary care and renal transplant.

Dr. Jessica Pyhtila is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with practice sites both in inpatient palliative care and outpatient home based primary care. She is based at the Loch Raven medical center in Baltimore. She has worked for the VA since 2012 when she was a VALOR intern. She received her PharmD in 2014 from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency at the VAMHCS. She is double board certified as a Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP) and a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS). She precepts PGY1 and PGY2 residents as well APPE students in a geriatric pharmacotherapy rotation. Trainees on rotation with her will have the opportunity for direct patient care (phone, face to face, possibly videoconference) as well as precepting and mentoring other students. Clinical skills will be built via patient visits, chart reviews, and discussions.

Faryal Qureshi, PharmD., BCCCP, BCPS received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and General Biology from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY in 1999. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, NY in 2003, and later earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA in 2006. She has worked in the private sector outpatient pharmacy setting for Eckerd Drugs as both staff and supervising pharmacist for several years. She later transitioned to hospital pharmacy and held positions as a staff pharmacist at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY and Frederick Memorial Hospital in Frederick, MD as the clinical pharmacist for the ICU and Pain and Palliative Care Service. She joined the VAMHCS in 2011 as the MICU pharmacist. She formerly held appointments with the American Academy of Pain Management as Diplomate, and Board Member for the MD state PDMP. Dr. Qureshi is dual board certified in Pharmacotherapy and Critical Care, and certified in Emergency Medicine, Antimicrobial Stewardship, and Pain Management.

Dr. Katherine Sanchez Vega received a B. S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico and later completed her degree of Doctor of Pharmacy from Nova Southeastern University in 2010. Following graduation, she completed a PGY1 Residency at the VA Caribbean Health Care System, San Juan Medical Center. Dr. Sanchez Vega came to the Baltimore VA Medical Center as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist where she established the clinical pharmacist role in the Women's Health Clinic. She is a board certified ambulatory care pharmacist whose focus is in women's health and primary care.

Dr. Lakshmi Singh received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 2009. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and a PGY2 Ambulatory Care residency at the VAMHCS. Upon completion, she obtained a position at the VAMHCS. She is board certified in ambulatory care clinical pharmacy practice and is a certified diabetes educator. She practices in the endocrine diabetes clinic, is the VAMHCS Diabetes Technology coordinator, participates in patient safety initiatives, process improvement initiatives that are within the endocrine/diabetes service. She is a member of the national diabetes technology committee and a lead research team member for the VA merit grant funded randomized-controlled clinical trial "continuous glucose monitoring in insulin treated hospitalized Veterans with DM2 at higher risk for hypoglycemia: a randomized clinical trial" currently in recruitment. She serves as a preceptor for PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residency programs and for multidisciplinary education for the endocrine fellowship program through University of Maryland School of Medicine. She holds an appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Theresa "Tess" Taubman received her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Lehigh University in 2004 and her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy of West Virginia in 2010. Following graduation, she completed a Pharmacy General Practice Residency at the Baltimore VA Maryland Health Care System. After completing her residency, Dr. Taubman stayed on with VA Maryland Health Care System as the clinical pharmacist for geriatric long-term care/hospice in Perry Point, MD. Additionally, Dr. Taubman received her certification in geriatrics (BCGP) in 2011. Currently, Dr. Taubman plays an integral role in the treatment teams for the Perry Point CLC, provides anticoagulation/erythropoiesis monitoring, medication reconciliation for transition of care, long-term care monthly reviews, and both patient/family/caregiver discharge medication counseling. She is also a member of the Falls Committee.

Dr. Kimberly VonNordeck, PharmD, BCPS received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 2010. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) and then went on to complete a PGY2 Internal Medicine Residency in the private sector at MedStar Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, MD. After finishing residency in July 2012, Dr. vonNordeck returned to the Baltimore VA as the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist for the Surgical ICU. She is also a member of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, Critical Care Committee and Surgery Performance Improvement/Customer Service Sub-council, and she facilitates order set and clinical decision support tool development for the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS).

Dr. Gregory Yugov received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 2012. Following graduation, he completed a one-year Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. Dr. Yugov then worked at VA Palo Alto Health Care System as an internal medicine clinical pharmacist. In 2016 he transferred to the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS), where he is now a clinical pharmacy specialist in acute care medicine. He is a member of the Alaris infusion pump and residency research committees at VAMHCS and is a co-preceptor for the medication safety rotation. Dr. Yugov holds board certification as a pharmacotherapy specialist (BCPS) and has an adjunct clinical faculty appointment with Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy.