

RESIDENCY IN MANAGED CARE PHARMACY SYSTEMS: FORMULARY MANAGEMENT VA LONG BEACH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (VALBHCS)

This second year pharmacy residency will provide highly motivated individuals the opportunity to apply safe, effective, evidence-based medicine practices to individual patients and populations. The goal of the program is to enable residents to become competent in the knowledge, skills, and perspectives required to optimize patient outcomes and to provide a high level of patient care to populations in a managed care environment.

The VA Healthcare System, utilizes an evidence-based formulary system in order to provide high-quality, cost-effective care to Veterans. By employing an entirely electronic medical record system and utilizing data warehousing, the VA offers a distinct advantage over a traditional pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) by providing nearly instantaneous access to the complete patient medical record for the entire population (i.e. admissions, clinic visits, laboratory values, diagnosis, medication history, etc.). The resident will have the opportunity to develop criterion for drug use, formulary monographs, perform utilization review, pharmaco-economic evaluations, identify and develop of clinical intervention activities with direct involvement in disease management programs, participate in the provider profiling initiative and in formulary development.

The formulary management resident will be responsible for the development and completion of a formal residency project suitable for implementation and publication. The resident will be members of multidisciplinary health plan committees, interact daily with other health care professionals, participate in resident journal clubs, and present at regional and/or national seminars. Education will include practical and didactic training in evidence-based medicine, epidemiology and healthcare economics. Out-of-state and in-state travel is required.

Length of Program: 12 Months
Application Deadline: March 1, 2008
Estimated Stipend: \$44,961

Number of Positions: One
Starting Date: July 1, 2008
Interview Required: Yes

Educational/Special Requirements: Pharm.D. degree and completion of first year residency or equivalent experience.
Fringe Benefits: 13 days vacation, healthcare benefits, 13 days of sick leaves, approximately 10 days of federal holidays, paid tuition and travel to required events, office with up-to-date computer systems and paid administrative leave for conferences and educational events.

Facilities: The resident office will be located at the VA Medical Center in Long Beach, California. Most activities will be coordinated from this location.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of evidence based formulary development, implementation, maintenance, and evaluation.
- Develop an understanding of the general principles of decision analysis using evidence based medicine practice.
- Understand the influence pharmacoeconomics has on the utilization, cost and availability of drug products and on humanistic health outcomes.
- Understand all relevant perspectives on pharmaceutical-related economic, clinical, and humanistic health outcomes.
- Develop the skills needed to critically assess and interpret the medical literature and its impact on a managed care population.
- Participate in the various aspects of disease management: identification of need and development, implementation, and assessment of treatment guidelines/protocols related to individual and population based patient care.

Didactic Course Work:

- University based education in epidemiology and study design
- Statistical analysis
- Continuing Education programs and conferences

Primary Preceptor Information:

David Gray, Pharm.D., BCPS, FACP
Steve Chretien, Pharm.D. M.B.A.
Michael Ascari, Pharm.D., M.H.A.
Ivy Mihara, Pharm.D., M.S.
Michael Juzba, Pharm.D., M.S., M.B.A.
Nathaniel Meridor, Pharm.D.

Contact Information:

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Email: michael.ascari@va.gov

How to Apply: Please forward a one-page personal statement, updated curriculum vitae, transcripts, and three letters of recommendation to Michael Ascari at the above address.



Dr. David R. Gray received his Pharm.D. degree from the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy in 1977. Following graduation he completed a residency in Ambulatory Care, at the Los Angeles VA Outpatient Clinic, and USC School of Pharmacy. Dr. Gray is currently Chief, Pharmacy & Sterile Supply Services. Dr. Gray has over 25 full-length publications and his primary area of research and practice is hyperlipidemia. Dr. Gray is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist, Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and Fellow of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Dr. Gray holds academic appointments with USC, UOP, and UCSF Schools of Pharmacy.



Dr. Steven Chretien received his Pharm.D. degree from the University of California at San Francisco in 1973. He has been instrumental in developing clinical pharmacy programs at the Long Beach VA Medical Center since their inception in 1976. Dr. Chretien is currently Professional Leader for Pharmacists and Clinical Pharmacy Specialists. He provides leadership and training for pharmacy residents in clinical pharmacy administration and practice. He co-coordinates the Cholesterol Clinic and the Nicotine Replacement Therapy Program. His primary area of research and practice is lipid pharmacology. Dr. Chretien holds academic appointments with USC, UOP, and UCSF Schools of Pharmacy.



Dr. Michael Ascari received his B.S. degree from the University of Rhode Island School of Pharmacy in 1991. In 1997 after practicing in retail and as a Consultant Pharmacist he returned to the University of Rhode Island and obtained his Pharm.D. Following graduation, he completed a residency in Clinical Pharmacy Practice at the Long Beach VA Medical Center. In 2006, Dr. Ascari received his M.H.A. from the University of California. Currently he directs the Pharmacy Benefit Management for the VA Long Beach Healthcare System. He holds academic appointments with the University of the Pacific and University of California. His areas of interest include pharmacoconomics, outcome studies, ambulatory care, lipid management, and psychiatry.



Dr. Ivy Tonnu-Mihara received her Doctorate of Pharmacy from the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy. Following graduation, she completed a residency in Geriatrics Pharmacy Practice at the USC School of Pharmacy. She also received her M.S. in Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy at the University of Southern California. Dr. Tonnu-Mihara holds the position of Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Anemia Management and Hepatitis C Pharmacy Liver Clinic. She is also the Outpatient Clinical Supervisor and in charge of the AMCP/Pfizer summer internship program. Dr. Tonnu-Mihara is an active member of AMCP and the International Society for Pharmacoconomics and Outcomes Research. Her areas of interest include pharmacoconomics and outcomes studies and geriatrics pharmaceutical care.

Michael Juzba, Pharm.D, M.S., M.B.A.

Dr. Michael Juzba received his Pharm.D. from the University of Southern California in 1981. Following graduation, he completed a residency in Hospital Pharmacy Administration at the University of Chicago. Dr. Juzba served as chief pharmacist in several organizations while also obtaining an MBA from Pepperdine University in 1989 and M.S. in Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy from USC in 1999. He has presented at national conferences in the areas of quality of life research, decision analysis, predictive modeling and has conducted numerous outcomes research projects for the pharmaceutical and managed care industries.



Dr. Nathaniel Meridor received his Doctorate of Pharmacy from the University of Iowa. Following graduation he practiced at the Boston VA Healthcare System in Massachusetts as a staff pharmacist. Dr. Meridor moved to Tucson, Arizona to complete a Pharmacy Practice residency at the Tucson VA hospital. In 2005, Dr. Meridor joined Walgreens Health Initiatives-a pharmacy benefit management company, and was involved in formulary management, medication use evaluations, and writing evidence-based criteria for approval of specialty drugs. Dr. Meridor serves as a pharmacoconomist at the Long Beach VA Healthcare System and takes part in formulary management, evaluation of non formulary requests, cost containment initiatives, and ad hoc clinical activities.