Yale New Haven Health System Pharmacy Residency Alumni Committee

Mission Statement
The mission of the Yale New Haven Health System Pharmacy Residency Alumni Committee is to:

- Disseminate information to residency alumni on the status of the current residency program and other residency related issues of interest
- Provide a means of networking amongst former and current pharmacy residents
- Provide the opportunity for pharmacy alumni to publicly share professional accomplishments and achievements, as well as personal events and milestones
- Coordinate resident alumni reunions and gatherings

Vision Statement
A committee that effectively enables a cohesive Pharmacy Residency Alumni group to connect and grow with current residents and preceptors, and with each other.
Health System Home Infusion Pharmacy Service Update

The home infusion program located at the Regional Operations Center (ROC) in West Haven continues to evolve.

In May 2022, this relatively new service received its State of Connecticut pharmacy license. The eventual goal is to expand licensure to neighboring states.

Most recently, the program underwent an unannounced American Commission for Health Care (ACHC) accreditation in mid-November. Although the survey was planned to take two full days to complete, the surveyors were satisfied with the operation, and exited in less than four hours, offering no findings or recommendations.

At present, the home infusion pharmacy team continues to support specialty home infusion therapies that include infliximab (Remicade®), vedolizumab (Entyvio®), eculizumab (Soliris®), natalizumab (Tysabri®), ocrelizumab (Ocrevus®), and belatacept (Nulojix®). Other therapies include intravenous and subcutaneous immune globulin, intravenous antibiotics, hydration solutions, chemotherapy, and palliative care medications. In addition to providing medications and ancillary supplies, the pharmacy home infusion service coordinates nursing care and patient education.

The program is currently in the planning process to insource all parenteral nutrition (PN) solutions to the health system by preparing them for inpatients at all of the system delivery networks. Included in this plan is to continue to compound and deliver PN solutions for patients after discharge.

Stay tuned as the home infusion program expands its services in the coming months.
PGY-2 Cardiology and Medication Use Safety and Policy – Pending Accreditation!

On August 24-25, following over a year of program development, the PGY2 Medication Use Safety and Policy (MUSP) and PGY2 Cardiology pharmacy residencies were surveyed by 3 ASHP surveyors. Each program was assessed against the ASHP residency standards, as well as the first-year residents’ ability to achieve the program-specific competency areas, goals, and objectives. The Pharmacy Department as a whole was reviewed for services, programs, and facilities, as well as surveyed for compliance with best practices and the value that our staff contribute to patient outcomes. Overall, the surveyors were very complimentary to our department, the residency programs, and our exceptional staff. Neither program had any areas of non-compliance. Each program received the typical number of partial compliance findings. Residency programs leadership, in collaboration with department/system pharmacy leadership, responded in early November, to each of the findings with a corrective action plan for the noted shortcomings. The ASHP Commission on Credentialing was expected to consider the responses at their March 10, 2023, with notification of accreditation status anticipated by early April 2023.

The PGY2 MUSP and PGY2 Cardiology program leadership is appreciative for all support received from:

- Preceptors during the development and ongoing optimization of these programs,
- Our education and residencies management team, Shannon Giddens and Jaclyn Kowalski,
- Our department and health-system leadership, Sarah Kelly, Stacy Vaeth, Amber Zaniewski and Jessica Vital-Carona,
- Key physician and nurse colleagues that provided testimony to our department’s value and contribution to patient care/outcomes and
- Our exceptional staff for your tireless work in servicing the patients we are privileged to care for.

Julie D’Ambrosi, PharmD,
Director, PGY2 Medication Use Safety and Policy
Supervisor, Medication Safety

Lionel Picot-Vierra, PharmD, BCCP, BCPS, CACP
Director, PGY2 Cardiology
Cardiovascular Pharmacy Specialist
Letters From Our Chief Residents

PGY-1 Chief Resident
Maria Latta, PharmD

My name is Maria and I’m honored to serve as the current PGY1 chief resident. I am originally from Connecticut and graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy.

As chief resident, I act as a representative for the PGY1 residency class and as a liaison between the residents and various leadership. In particular, I advocate for the unique needs of the current class as the landscape of pharmacy changes especially in light of the pandemic. I collaborate with various pharmacy leaders within our institution to continue growing and developing our program. My core goals in this role are to facilitate an in-depth and robust learning experience for the current residency class and to support system-level changes that ensure that future generations of pharmacists are empowered in their role and education.

PGY-2 Chief Resident
Jessica Daniell, PharmD

Hi! My name is Jess, and I am one of the PGY2 Critical Care residents at Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH). I also currently serve as the PGY2 Chief Resident. I was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia but spent most of my life growing up in Fort Worth, Texas. After receiving a bachelor’s degree at Sewanee: University of the South in Tennessee, I moved to Nashville where I later earned my PharmD at Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy. Most importantly, I have a five-year-old Newfoundland dog named Gabi! I am also quite talented in the art of winning concert tickets from the radio.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my position as chief resident. I also had the opportunity to serve as the PGY-1 chief resident last year. Through this role, I have had the opportunity to serve as a liaison between the pharmacy residents and pharmacy leadership. I was fortunate to play a role in the onboarding of new residents and providing advice and guidance as they began their residency at YNHH. In coordination with Maria Latta, the chief resident role has allowed me to advocate for the pharmacy residents as a means of enhancing their residency experience based on feedback which has been provided during our resident check-in meetings and discussions with residents.

The 2022-2023 pharmacy residents have created strong relationships with one another, and I am so glad to be part of these life-long friendships. I am proud to be one of the current PGY2 pharmacy residents and to serve as their Chief Resident.
Resident Profiles

PGY-1 Pharmacy Residents

Bridgeport Hospital

Christian Rohach, PharmD
University of Connecticut
Hometown: Monroe, CT

Professional interests include internal medicine, infectious diseases, ambulatory care (diabetes and HIV), and operations. I also love to work out, be outside, watch football, play video games, and do vancomycin consults. Fun fact: I can hold my breath for 55 seconds

Favorite Drug: Propofol because it looks delicious
Midyear Project: Standardization of OTC formulary list
Longitudinal Project: Prospect Acquisition: Clinical

Lucas Clari, PharmD
University of Georgia
Hometown: Alpharetta, GA

My interests include infectious disease and critical care. Outside of work I enjoy traveling, playing and watching sports, and spending time with friends and family.

Favorite Drug: Etomidate because of it provides sedation with quick onset and a short duration along with being a hemodynamically stable. It is considered our gold standard for RSI/short procedural sedation and saves lives!
Midyear Project: Evaluating Use of Free and Total Phenytoin Levels to Establish Guidance for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring at a Large Academic Health System
Longitudinal Project: Evaluation of Adherence to Care Signature Pathway for Treatment of Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP)

Matthew Caltagirone, PharmD
D'Youville University
Hometown: New Hartford, NY

My top areas of interest include cardiology and critical care. In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with friends, trying new restaurants/breweries, and learning how to cook. A fun fact about me is that I have a twin sister!

Favorite Drug: My favorite drug would probably be dapagliflozin. It's really interesting to see how much SGLT-2 inhibitors are changing practices in real-time: from diabetes, to CKD, to heart failure. Also, I think "Farxiga" is really fun to say.
Midyear Project: Evaluation of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction prescribing practices across a five-hospital health system
Longitudinal Project: Prospect Acquisition: Formulary

Yujin Hong, PharmD
Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy
Hometown: Shelton, CT

My current professional areas of interests are oncology and pediatrics. I love camping, hiking, and visiting dog-friendly beaches with my two jindos on weekends

Favorite Drug: My favorite drug is Winlevi (clascoterone). It's the first topical androgen receptor inhibitor used to treat hormonal acne. It works wonders and lets you avoid systemic side effects from taking oral spironolactone.
Midyear Project: N/A
Longitudinal Project: N/A
Resident Profiles

Community-Based PGY-1 Residents

**Seeon Lee, PharmD**
Long Island University
**Hometown:** South Korea

I am from Brooklyn, NY. For fun I enjoy outdoor activities and arts & crafts. My career goal is to become an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist.

**Fun Fact:** I was the first president of the Korean women’s intramural soccer team at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Favorite Drug:** Skyrizi (risankizumab) - I cannot forget the moment during a follow-up visit how happy the patient was to see clear skin that she has never had in her life after 3 months of Skyrizi.

**Midyear Project:** Expanding pharmacist collaborative practice agreements across multiple states within a large academic health system

**Francesca Picone, PharmD**
Western New England University
**Hometown:** Southington, CT

In my free time, I enjoy baking, running, and spending time with my friends and family. My professional interests include medication management at specialty clinics.

**Favorite Drug:** Metformin because it’s affordable, effective, and reliable

**Nada Asfour, PharmD**
University of North Carolina
**Hometown:** Raleigh, NC

I’m very passionate about working in underserved populations and hope to be able to impact these communities through ambulatory pharmacy services. Outside of pharmacy, I love hiking, kayaking, traveling to new countries, going to the beach, and spending time with my cat, family, and friends!

**Favorite Drug:** Dapagliflozin because this medication is not only used to lower blood glucose but also offers cardiovascular and renal benefits

**Midyear Project:** Evaluation of Inspiratory Flow Rate of patients with chronic pulmonary diseases

Careers

Great job opportunities at Yale New Haven Health in all levels, inpatient and outpatient. Check out https://jobs.ynhhs.org/jobs for the complete pharmacy job listing.
Resident Profiles

Lawrence Memorial Hospital

**Brianna Nelson, PharmD**  
University of Rhode Island  
**Hometown:** Farmington, CT

My current clinical interests are critical care and ambulatory care, but I enjoy rotating throughout many different areas of the hospital. Outside of work, I love to shop, bake, travel, and go boating.

**Favorite Drug:** Ketamine because it has dose-dependent effects and be used for many clinical indications  
**Midyear Project:** Evaluation of the Management of Iron Deficiency in Patients with Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction across a Five-Hospital Health System  
**Longitudinal Project:** Anticoagulation TOC Project

**James Farrell, PharmD**  
University of Rhode Island  
**Hometown:** Saunderstown, RI

My primary clinical interests are in critical care and cardiology, but I also enjoy precepting and mentoring pharmacy students. Some of my favorite hobbies include surfing, skiing, and hiking.

**Favorite Drug:** Atropine because its effect is seen almost immediately after administration.  
**Midyear Project:** PY2Y12 Inhibitor Use Associated with Coronary Stenting in Acute Coronary Syndrome  
**Longitudinal Project:** Continuation of Midyear Project

**Joseph Polidoro, PharmD**  
Western New England University  
**Hometown:** Saunderstown, RI

Some of my hobbies include weightlifting, snowboarding, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. After the completion of my PGY1 residency, I plan to pursue a PGY2 in critical care.

**Favorite Drug:** Meropenem/vaborbactam because while I hope to never encounter an infection so resistant that it requires use of Vabomere, I simply love the name.  
**Midyear Project:** Identification of Inpatient Hypoglycemia Risk Factors across a Five-Hospital Health System  
**Longitudinal Project:** Pharmacist managed opioid-analgesia stewardship protocol
Yale New Haven Hospital

Shea Bacon, PharmD
D’Youville University
Hometown: Madison, CT

I like to go to the beach, travel, and try new restaurants.

Favorite Drug: Cefazolin because there’s mortality benefit in MSSA bacteremia

Midyear Project: Intravenous Hypertensive Medication Use in Medicine and Surgical Care Areas across a Five-Hospital Health System

Longitudinal Project: Elevated INR Safety-Quality Improvement

Bianca Bartoli, PharmD
Western New England College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Hometown: Wolcott, CT

I’m one of the PGY1/2 Health System Pharmacy Administration & Leadership residents. In my free time, I love being outdoors, whether that be exploring the shoreline with my family and friends or finding new restaurants/coffee shops. Currently, my professional interests include pharmacy operations, and education & training.

Favorite Drug: Vancomycin - always [covering] positive [organisms], like me!

Midyear Project: Evaluating Non-formulary Medication Processes to Enhance Inventory Management

Longitudinal Project: Prospect Acquisition: Operations

Nauka Bhalodia, PharmD
University of Pittsburgh
Hometown: North Wales, PA

My professional interests are transplant and cardiology. I like to bake and hike for fun!

Favorite Drug: Febuxostat because it is a unique drug with a cool name.

Midyear Project: Assessment of Ordering Practices for PRN Opioids in Post-Surgical Patients

Longitudinal Project: ASHP Residency Standard Compliance and Survey Preparation

Julie Boucher, PharmD
Concordia University Wisconsin
Hometown: Mequon, WI

I began working as a clinical pharmacist at a couple hospitals in the Midwest in 2017 and I moved to the New Haven area in March 2021. I began working as a multispecialty pharmacist at Yale New Haven Hospital before transitioning to a PGY1 pharmacy resident with hopes of acceptance to a PGY2 program in oncology. In my free time, I enjoy hiking with my dog, boating, and traveling in the summer. In the winter, I enjoy skiing in my free time. I have visited Killington, VT and Loon, NH in the northeast areas since moving here, but I am excited to try more places this winter if possible.

Favorite Drug: Metformin (the miracle drug) because of its multiple non-FDA approved indications including gestational diabetes, management of antipsychotic-induced weight gain, DM2, PCOS, and it is emerging in cancer research.

Midyear Project: Pegfilgrastim Biosimilar Orderable Evaluation

Longitudinal Project: Prospect Acquisition: Compounding
Resident Profiles

Eve Carciofi, PharmD
Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Hometown: Tewksbury, MA

One of the most important things to know about me is that I LOVE elephants and dogs. My German Shepherd, Heidi, is back in Boston, but she comes to visit whenever she can. I love to travel and recently went on a solo backpacking trip to Thailand where I got to hangout with elephants. When I’m not obsessing over dogs or traveling, you can find me curled up with a book, binge-watching Netflix shows, or getting into my new hobbies of hiking and paddle boarding. I will be pursuing a PGY-2 in solid organ transplant for next year!


Midyear Project: Effect of Antiproliferative Dose on Clinical Outcomes in Adult Kidney Transplant Recipients Maintained on Belatacept
Longitudinal Project: Heart Transplant Ambulatory Service

Markella Cervenak, PharmD
University of Pittsburgh
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

My interests within pharmacy include underserved patient care, with a particular focus in psychiatry. I find substance use disorder a particularly rewarding disease state to manage. Outside of pharmacy I love traveling especially with my mother who has an inspiring amount of celebration for life. My favorite things in life are good take-out, my dog Bunny, and the Steelers.

Favorite Drug: Insulin because it has given so many people a chance at life and the scientists responsible for the landmark discovery sacrificed a fortune to ensure it was a drug accessible to people in need.

Midyear Project: Optimizing the inpatient clotting factor product workflow across YNHH
Longitudinal Project: Pharmacy Core Orientation: LMS Conversion

Kevin Ho, PharmD
University of Connecticut
Hometown: Newington, CT

I am a huge fan of Marvel movies, and now recently, the shows. During my spare time, I like to play and watch sports, especially playing tennis and watching football and basketball. My favorite team is the New England Patriots. I enjoy traveling as this is one of my biggest goals in life. I was just recently in Europe this past summer and I traveled to Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium. I love listening to people’s travel stories and all the fun places that they have been to! In terms of my professional interests, I find solid organ transplant and cardiology to be my main interests. I also enjoy precepting and teaching.

Favorite Drug: My favorite drug is tacrolimus because it is the main drug that represents my field of interest. In addition, the management of tacrolimus is unique, and I have always been fascinated by the delicate balance in tacrolimus levels, similar to how there is a delicate balance in immunosuppression/rejection and infection in transplant.

Midyear Project: Sirolimus in Heart Transplant Recipients
Longitudinal Project: Comprehensive review of High Risk Medication policy and mitigation process
Resident Profiles

**Maria Latta, PharmD**  
University of Connecticut  
**Hometown:** Cheshire, CT

I’m interested in pharmacy administration. I also love doing jigsaw puzzles and trying out new places to eat.

**Favorite Drug:** Mitoxantrone because it’s an IV chemotherapy medication that is bright blue. I was a compounding intern at Smilow and always loved making it.  
**Midyear Project:** Optimizing Value Capture through an Automated Contract Pricing Surveillance Process  
**Longitudinal Project:** Continuation of Midyear Project

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**Allie Lindo, PharmD**  
Long Island University  
**Hometown:** North Kingstown, RI

Professional interests: Ambulatory Care, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine  
Hobbies: Tennis, Surfing, Running, Snowboarding, Making Charcuterie Boards  
Fun Facts: I have been scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef, I love trying new pizza places in New Haven, I have run a half-marathon (and hope to complete a marathon in the future)

**Favorite Drug:** My favorite drug class is the statin drug class because statins reduce mortality risk for multiple disease states. My favorite statin is rosuvastatin (Crestor) because it can be dosed as a high intensity statin but has fewer drug-drug interactions than atorvastatin.  
**Midyear Project:** Clinical Impact of a Pharmacist Driven Vancomycin Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (V-OPAT) Service  
**Longitudinal Project:** Population Health/RPM Hypertension Service Alignment

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**Palna Mehta, PharmD**  
Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy  
**Hometown:** Edison, NJ

During my free time, I enjoy hiking and traveling. I was lucky enough to complete a rotation through the Indian Health Service in Crownpoint, New Mexico, where I was able to enjoy many hikes during the weekends at the beautiful national parks of the Southwest. I also enjoy visiting art museums and attending dance classes in New York City. Currently, my clinical and professional areas of interest include critical care, as well as teaching and precepting.

**Favorite Drug:** My favorite drug class is the statin drug class because statins reduce mortality risk for multiple disease states. With three different FDA approved indications in relatively different disease states, it proves to be valuable.  
**Midyear Project:** Evaluation of potassium and magnesium replacement protocols in a five-hospital health system  
**Longitudinal Project:** Reducing COPD Readmissions at a Large Academic Medical Center

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**Edgardo Mendoza, PharmD**  
University of California San Francisco  
**Hometown:** Manila, Philippines

My professional interests include toxicology, emergency medicine, and informatics. Fun facts: I drove ~3000 miles to move from California to Connecticut and saw the “largest truck stop in the world” and the “largest railroad classification yard in the world”.

**Midyear Project:** Evaluating Clotting Factor Utilization in a Large Health System  
**Longitudinal Project:** Auto Verification Policy Development
William Osei-Bonsu, PharmD  
Nova Southeastern University  
**Hometown:** Worcester, MA

I am originally from Ghana which is a country in the western part of Africa. I love spending time with family and volunteering at community events. I am a big soccer fan, and my favorite team is Chelsea FC in the English Premier League. Prior to pursuing a PharmD at Nova, I was a pharmacist in Ghana with clinical roles in different specialties. My professional interests include oncology and internal medicine.

**Favorite Drug:** Aspirin! It is accessible worldwide, has variety of indications, widely studied yet room for further studies. Popularly termed "a wonder drug". I believe I share some of its properties.  
**Midyear Project:** Evaluation of Therapeutic Duplication Reduction Strategies throughout YNHHS  
**Longitudinal project:** Medication Related LOS Reduction

Philippe Recalt, PharmD  
University of Saint Joseph  
**Hometown:** Wallingford, CT

My professional interest is in emergency medicine and have early committed to a PGY-2 in Emergency Medicine at YNHH next year. I have three dogs, Rigby, Kimchi, and Chowder. I may be biased, but they are the cutest and best dogs ever. Besides spending time with them, I enjoy fishing, drinking craft beer and coffee, eating breakfast food, hiking, and traveling.

**Favorite Drug:** Vyxeos because it got me my first RL and it’s purple.  
**Midyear Project:** Evaluating the Documentation Process of High Risk Medications during Bedside Procedures  
**Longitudinal project:** Optimization of Antidotes

Cara Rotatori, PharmD  
University of Connecticut  
**Hometown:** Naugatuck, CT

My professional interests include medication safety and pediatrics. I early committed to a PGY-2 in Mediation Use Safety and Policy at YNHH next year. I love taking Peloton classes, trying new breweries, and traveling!

**Favorite Drug:** Anidulafungin – because it’s such a fun drug to say!  
**Midyear Project:** Consistent Evaluation of Medications Not Used and Removed from Formulary  
**Longitudinal Project:** Medication Safety/Regulatory Components of Prospect Acquisitions

Marissa Saber, PharmD  
University at Buffalo  
**Hometown:** Buffalo, NY

My professional interests currently include critical care and academia. I have early committed to the PGY-2 in Critical Care at YNHH next year. In my free time I enjoy being with my family and reading. I have a dog named Shay, she is a 6 year old German Shorthaired Pointer rescue.

**Favorite Drug:** Lidocaine because of its versatility and it’s one of the ingredients in my favorite compound to make, magic mouthwash!  
**Midyear Project:** Real World Review of Infliximab Biosimilars at a Large Academic Health System  
**Longitudinal Project:** Minimizing Continuous Infusions in the ICU
Emily Sajda, PharmD  
Purdue University  
**Hometown:** Portage, IN

My professional interests include oncology and pediatrics which I hope to combine in a future role as a clinical pharmacist. Outside of residency, I enjoy trying new coffee shops and going hiking with my mini bernedoodle, Ivy. I also like classic rock and collect vinyl records.  

**Favorite Drug:** Infliximab – because I am in the process of making a practice change at YNHHS in terms of the total administration time and adjusting the infusion so it's faster for patients.  

**Midyear Project:** Implementation of Rapid Infliximab Infusions at Large Academic Health System  

**Longitudinal Project:** Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Model for Medication History Program

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Brenda Wong, PharmD  
Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy  
**Hometown:** Belle Mead, NJ

Outside of pharmacy, I enjoy trying different foods, learning how to cook, and reading books.  

**Favorite Drug:** My favorite drug is zinc oxide because I think it's important to protect your skin and sunscreen should be used every day.  

**Midyear Project:** Evaluating Valproic Acid Drug Monitoring to Establish Guidance for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring at a Large Academic Health System  

**Longitudinal project:** NF Request Optimization via Epic Rule-Based Ordering or Implementation of Standardized NF Pathway

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Olivia Spence, PharmD  
University of Rhode Island  
**Hometown:** Wallingford, CT

My professional interests include internal medicine, psychiatry, diabetes management, and opioid stewardship. In my free time, I enjoy going for walks/runs, going to the beach, spending time with my friends, and listening to any form of music. I also love trying new restaurants, breweries, and wineries around CT. I also have a pug named Finn!  

**Favorite Drug:** Dapagliflozin – because it has great efficacy in diabetes and heart failure patients!  

**Midyear Project:** Evaluation of an Ambulatory Opioid Stewardship Dashboard: Ensuring Robust Measures  

**Longitudinal project:** Medication-Related Falls
Resident Profiles

PGY2 Pharmacy Residents
Ambulatory Care

Lava Kareem, PharmD
PharmD: UCONN
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

My professional interests include chronic pain, HIV, oncology, and palliative care. Some of my favorite things to do include hiking, traveling, and fitness!

Favorite Drug: Dexamethasone because jack of all trades energy: antiemetic, anti-inflammatory, malignant spinal cord decompression, hypersensitivity prophylaxis, etc.

Longitudinal Project: Neurology Clinic Expansion

Wei Lin, PharmD
PharmD: University of Pittsburgh
PGY-1: Northwell Health – Lenox Hill Hospital

I am originally from New York. Some of my hobbies include cooking, hiking, and traveling.

Favorite Drug: Statins because red yeast rice statins are derived from my home region in China. Red yeast is also commonly used in cooking and was one of my favorite foods growing up.

Longitudinal project: Medication Management Clinic Expansion to Cardiology Areas

Cardiology

Maia Determan, PharmD
PharmD: Drake University
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

I’m originally from Kasson, Minnesota. My professional interests include cardiology pharmacy. Hobbies include soccer, yoga, life music, and estate sales.

Favorite Drug: Benicar. Smells like buttered popcorn!

Research: PAD Antithrombotic Strategies

Critical Care

Hui Lin, PharmD
PharmD: University of Georgia
PGY-1: AU Medical Center

My professional interests include critical care as well as academia with an emphasis on mentorship and precepting. Throughout my PGY-2, my goals are to become further involved in the research and precepting learners. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking, photography, and traveling.

Favorite Drug: Crystalloid fluids – they are used all the time and rarely thought of as “drugs” plus there are a lot interesting opinions regarding fluid management in the ICU

Research: Evaluating the Use of Dexmedetomidine
Resident Profiles

Jessica Daniell, PharmD
PharmD: Lipscomb University
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

My professional interests include infectious disease in the ICU and traumatic brain injury. I enjoy hanging out with my co-residents at happy hour or exploring New England. One of my biggest hobbies is attending live music. I love alternative, folk, and indie music. I have even won over 50 pairs of concert tickets on the radio!

**Favorite Drug:** Any GABAnergic medication – my dog’s name is Gaba, after the neurotransmitter!

**Research:** Tenecteplase for stroke, pulmonary embolism, and myocardial infarction

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Emergency Medicine

Kelly Oldziej, PharmD
PharmD: University of South Florida
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

I’m a Connecticut native but grew up in Florida for the majority of my life. My professional interests include acute toxicology and trauma. Caffeine is my lifeline and Tom Brady is still the GOAT.

**Favorite Drug:** Ketamine is so incredibly versatile it’s insane but expertise to ensure appropriate dosing and administration is required!

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Internal Medicine

Mariam Farah, PharmD
PharmD: Loma Linda University
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

I’m originally from Southern California. One fun fact about me is that I’ve gone from experiencing only one season on the West Coast to experiencing all four seasons since moving to the East Coast. I’ve enjoyed exploring all the East Coast things such as food, hiking trials, beaches, and of course being within close proximity to NY.

**Favorite Drug:** Piperacillin/Tazobactam – I have two cats named Pip and Taz!

**Research:** IMPOWR – The Integrative Management of Chronic Pain and OUD for Whole Recovery

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Infectious Diseases

Bailey Thayer, PharmD
PharmD: University of Rhode Island
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

My professional interests include immunocompromised infectious disease, outpatient HIV management, opportunistic infections and solid organ transplant. I also have an interest in precepting and teaching. For hobbies, my favorite things to do is ski in VT and go to the beach in RI.
**Resident Profiles**

**Favorite Drug:** Any beta-lactam/beta-lactamase inhibitor combination because I think the antibiotic plus inhibitor combination is incredibly innovative

**Research:** Clinical Outcomes in Susceptible-Dose Dependent *Candida glabrata* candidemia

**Investigational Drugs and Research**

**Nicholas Rioux, PharmD**  
PharmD: University of Connecticut  
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

As the current Investigational Drug and Research Resident, my professional interests are around research. My hobbies include golf, tennis, and cars.

**Favorite Drug:** Pembrolizumab because it is the only cancer drug to have approvals across a specific mutation no matter the type of cancer

**Longitudinal Project:** Isotope sterilization process

**Oncology**

**Nicole Scott, PharmD**  
PharmD: Virginia Commonwealth University  
PGY-1: University of Virginia

I grew up in Chesapeake, VA. My clinical interests include gynecologic oncology as well as disparities in cancer care. My hobbies include spending time with family, baking, and visiting wineries and breweries, binge-watching shows in Netflix and reading.

**Favorite Drug:** Aspirin because I feel like it is a really old drug, yet still controversial  
**Longitudinal Project:** Docetaxel Premedication Pilot

**Katie Konieczny, PharmD**  
PharmD: MCPHS University  
PGY-1: Rhode Island Hospital

I am originally from Massachusetts and completed my undergraduate degree in Biology at Stonehill College. I’m hoping to pursue pediatric oncology in the future. Outside of work, I love to be outdoors, whether that be kayaking or hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

**Favorite Drug:** Diphenhydramine because it acts quickly, effectively and is universally utilized in all practice care settings. It comes in handy when it’s most needed, acting always as an old reliable!

**Longitudinal Project:** The Utility of IVIG Infection Prophylaxis in Patients on Anti-CD38 Therapies

**Jessica (Jesse) Zhao, PharmD**  
PharmD: Purdue University  
PGY-1: Providence Portland Medical Center

I grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, and I have since moved all over the states (and internationally), but this is my first time on the east coast. Aside from mentorship and oncology, my other professional interests include teaching and expanding healthcare accessibility.

**Favorite Drug:** Leucovorin because I see my role in a team as adding a "boost" to support my peers or being able to "rescue" my teammates when they have any urgent questions!  
**Research:** Biomarker-Guided Treatment Decision Pathways in Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
Resident Profiles

**Pediatrics**

**Patrick Watchorn, PharmD**
PharmD: South Dakota State University
PGY-1: Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

My professional interests include pediatric critical care/emergency medicine and academia. Outside of work, I am usually playing with our dog, baking cheesecakes, reading, visiting friends and family, or taking a 6-hour nap. A fun fact about me is I was one of 36 in my high-school graduating class, the largest number of graduates my hometown had seen in over 50 years.

**Favorite Drug:** Vasopressors because they represent the most critically ill patients and patients that have the most opportunity for pharmacy interventions.

**Longitudinal Project:** Development of discharge counseling program and discharge medication reconciliation process for pediatric patients

**Kalie Berry, PharmD**
PharmD: West Virginia University
PGY-1: Bridgeport Hospital

I am from St. Albans, West Virginia. I have a 6-year old pit bull mix dog, Piper, who I am obsessed with. My favorite activities include going to breweries, skiing, and online shopping. My professional interests include infectious disease and general pediatric medicine.

**Longitudinal Project:** Discharge Prescription Review of Antimicrobials

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**Psychiatry**

**Lauren Bertocci, PharmD**
PharmD: Western New England University
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

I am passionate about treating patients with serious mental illness. Outside of pharmacy, I love to spend time with family and friends, watch football, explore New York and New England.

**Favorite Drug:** Lithium is my favorite drug because there is always something new to learn about it and I have seen it truly change people’s lives.

**Longitudinal Project:** Evaluation of anticholinergics for EPS prophylaxis among inpatients ordered scheduled antipsychotics

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**Health-System Administration**

**Dianne Techwei, PharmD**
PharmD: West Virginia University
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

I was born and raised in Cameroon and currently reside in Maryland with my family. In my free time, I enjoy reading, watching movies and having long phone chats with my siblings. I’m interested in pursuing a career in pharmacy administration and leadership in ambulatory and inpatient operations.

**Favorite Drug:** Extra Strength Excedrin, while studying for my board exams and during my PGY1 year, I had earth-crushing, traumatizing migraines. Taking this medication alleviated these headaches!
Resident Profiles

**Longitudinal Project**: IV room Productivity and Capacity across YNHHS

**Blerim Dema, PharmD**
PharmD: East Tennessee State University
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

I am originally from Waterbury, CT and I currently live in West Haven. My clinical interests include critical care, cardiology, and surgery. Non-clinical interests include medication safety, drug use policy, and education. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking, discovering new foods and restaurants, tennis, and chess.

**Favorite Drug**: Tie between warfarin and heparin. These were the first two medications that I can recall educating providers on!

**Longitudinal project**: Biosimilar Optimization

**Robin Cullen, PharmD**
PharmD: MCPHS
PGY-1: Yale New Haven Hospital

Hailing from South Africa originally, I call the great state of Maine home in the US. I have forged an informatics/management path. Apart from that, I am a person of concerted movement whether that be running, cycling, or dancing.

**Favorite Drug**: Robinul Forte, why else.

**Longitudinal Project**: Medication Management Clinical Implementation of Epic Compass Rose module
Residency Program Directors & Coordinators

YNH PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency
RPD (left): Shannon Giddens, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS
RPC (right): Jaclyn Kowalski, PharmD, BCPS

L&M PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency
RPD (left): Michelle Kelley, PharmD
RPC (right): Lorna Carrasquillo Rodriguez, PharmD

BH PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency
RPD (left): Christopher Flores, PharmD, BCPS
RPC (right): Paul Ahearn, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

YNH PGY-1 Community-Based Residency
RPD (left): Steph Luon, PharmD, BCACP, BCPS
RPC (middle): Mitchell DelVecchio, PharmD, CSP
RPC (right): Erika Payne, PharmD, BCACP

PGY-1/2 Health System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership with Masters Degree
RPD (left): Nigjar Polat, PharmD, MBA, CPPS
RPC (right): Mariel Pereda, PharmD, BCPS
Residency Program Directors & Coordinators

**PGY-2 Ambulatory Care**
RPD (left): Steph Luon, PharmD, BCACP, BCPS
RPC (middle): Natasha Stroedecke, PharmD
RPC (right): Jenna Lee, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP

**PGY-2 Cardiology**
RPD (left): Lionel Picot-Vierra, PharmD, BCPS
RPC (right): Cory C. Heck, PharmD, BCCCP

**PGY-2 Critical Care**
RPD (left): Ginger Rouse, PharmD, BCPS
RPC (right): Mahmoud Ammar, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

**PGY-2 Emergency Medicine**
RPD (left): Evan Zahn, PharmD, BCCCP
RPC (right): Jesse Albano, PharmD, BCPS

**PGY-2 Infectious Diseases**
RPD (left): Dayna McManus, PharmD, BCPS AQ-ID
RPC (right): Matthew Davis, PharmD, BCIDP
Residency Program Directors & Coordinators

**PGY-2 Internal Medicine**
RPD (left): Stefanie Zassman, PharmD, BCPS
RPC (right): Sagune Sakya, PharmD, BCPS

**PGY-2 Investigational Drugs and Research**
RPD (left): Prashant Patel, PharmD
RPC (right): Danielle Brown, PharmD

**PGY-2 Pediatrics**
RPD (left): Courtney Genovesi, PharmD, BCPS
RPC (right): Talia Papiro, PharmD, BCPS

**PGY-2 Solid Organ Transplant**
RPD (left): Kristen Belfield, PharmD, BCPS
RPC (right): Gianna Girone, PharmD, BCPS
Residency Program Directors & Coordinators

PGY-2 Psychiatry

PGY-2 Psychiatry
RPD (left): Gina Morrow, PharmD, BCPP
RPC (right): Ashley Tewksbury, PharmD, BCPP

PGY-2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy

PGY-2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy
RPD (left): Julie D’Ambrosi, PharmD, BCPS
RPC (right): Emily Tiglio, PharmD, MPH

PGY-2 Oncology

PGY-2 Oncology
RPD (left): Darren Luon, PharmD, BCOP
RPC (right): Molly Schiffer, PharmD, BCOP

Got News?
Any life events/photos within the last year that you would like to share? (ie. promotions, pets, marriage, kids, hobbies, moved, new house, accomplishments, etc.)

We’d like to hear from you!
Fill out the online form at https://form.jotform.com/212693364393159
Preceptor Spotlight

Samantha Brongiel, PharmD, BCOP

Samantha Brongiel, PharmD, BCOP is a Medical Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Yale New Haven Hospital, Smilow Cancer Hospital.

She was born and raised in Mount Prospect, Illinois. Sam attended undergraduate studies at Drake University for pharmacy pre-requisites and then obtained her doctorate in pharmacy at Creighton University in 2018. During an APPE rotation in pediatric oncology, the experience inspired her interest in oncology. Sam went on to complete her PGY1 pharmacy residency at Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy Hospital in 2019 then completed a PGY-2 in hematology/oncology at Yale New Haven Hospital, Smilow Cancer Hospital in 2020.

After post-graduate training, Sam took a position as a clinical oncology pharmacist at Yale New Haven Hospital, Smilow Cancer Hospital and obtained a Board Certification in Oncology Pharmacy (BCOP). Currently as a Medical Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, she rounds and works closely with medical oncologists and the interdisciplinary team, as well as works outpatient in the medical oncology infusion center on NP8 and in North Haven with medical oncologists, nursing staff, and nurse practitioners. She is a preceptor for the inpatient and outpatient medical oncology rotations for PGY1 and PGY2 residents at Smilow Cancer Hospital, as well as grand rounds resident presentations. Sam loves working with the people at Yale, which was a large part of why she decided to stay after post-graduate training. “The people is what sets Yale apart; everyone from pharmacist colleagues to leadership, providers, and nursing staff.” Sam has a strong passion for immunotherapy and patient outcomes. Sam has worked on projects for biomarker-guided treatment decision pathways in metastatic NSCLC, immune-related adverse events, and immune checkpoint inhibitor outcomes with a recent publication in Annals of Pharmacotherapy on the Management of Steroid-Refractory Gastrointestinal Immune-Related Adverse Events. Additionally, she is collaborating in a multicenter retrospective study, The Inpatient Immunotherapy Outcomes Study (IIOS), which is looking at the role of immune checkpoint inhibitors in the inpatient setting and outcomes of patients who received inpatient immune checkpoint inhibitors. She is involved in HOPA and NCODA (National Community Oncology Dispensing Association) with a recent national presentation on the NCODA Immune-Related Adverse Events (irAE) Management Toolkit that she helped to develop. Additionally, she is the pharmacy co-lead on the YNH Smilow Nursing Shared Governance and the pharmacy representative on the Yale irAE Tumor Board. She is also involved in the Pharmacy Professional Governance Committee (PPGC) as the YNH Smilow Cancer Hospital representative.

As a preceptor, Sam strongly believes in tailoring learning experiences to the individual resident, including the learning environment, feedback, and their interests. “I sit down with the resident on the first day of the rotation and discuss how he or she best learns. In my experience, some learners cave under pressure and get uncomfortable when interrogated and prefer a more conversational approach. Other residents thrive in this setting and have given me feedback that they retain information best when put on the spot. In my experience, when I am able to adjust my precepting style to accommodate their ideal learning environment, residents get so much more out of the rotation.”

Sam’s motivation to precept stems from wanting to pave it forward “based on the extraordinary preceptors I had
that went above and beyond in their roles as educators and mentors. They not only imparted their knowledge and expertise upon me but offered valuable guidance and support as I navigated through residency. I am so grateful for those experiences and recognize the impact they had on my career, which is what motivates me now as a preceptor to do the same for my residents.”

Sam’s favorite aspect of precepting is “watching residents grow as pharmacists gaining confidence and competence in their clinical skills throughout their training years. It’s very rewarding to contribute to this professional growth!”

Sam loves reading, running, spending time with her dog Theo, and visiting her family in Chicago. A fun fact is she recently took up golfing, with her first golf lesson this past fall!

Testimonials from former learners that were guided and inspired by Samantha:

“When I was a PGY1 and PGY2, she was my preceptor for the inpatient and outpatient Medical Oncology rotation. She was friendly and interested in providing the best experience possible for my learning. She would set dedicated time in a quiet space for topic discussions to minimize interruption. In addition, she catered to my learning experiences by asking which disease state/topic I wanted to understand more about in addition to core topic discussions. I particularly liked her preceptor style, where she encouraged independent thinking and acceptance that there are multiple ways to approach clinical scenarios. In addition, she provided positive feedback, with constructivism, to not discourage residents. Finally, she offered appropriate independence preceptorship for residents to feel they are practicing and managing the service by themselves. She would also be available at a moment’s notice to help with more complex situations requiring clinical experience. Overall, I had a great experience with Sam when she was my preceptor. She deserves to be recognized for her hard work and dedication to learners.”

Henry Le, PharmD, BCPS
Hematology Oncology Clinical Pharmacist, Fred Hutchinsson Cancer Center / University of Washington Medical Center
Previous PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident and PGY-2 Oncology Resident, Yale New Haven Hospital, Smilow Cancer Hospital

“Sam is an amazing preceptor, and I am so grateful I was given the opportunity to work with her during both my inpatient and outpatient Medical Oncology rotations. Sam is truly a pharmacy practice role model, and I am thankful for the time she spent showing me her process for working up patients, preparing for topic discussions, and generally staffing the unit. Sam was great during topic discussions and asked interesting follow-up questions that enhanced my understanding of the topic. She was always available to answer any questions I may have had and help facilitate my learning. Any resident or student would be lucky to have Sam as their preceptor and I am especially thankful that I get to continue to work with Sam as both a colleague and a friend.”

Katelyn Yamartino, PharmD
Hematology Oncology Clinical Pharmacist II, Yale New Haven Hospital, Smilow Cancer Hospital
Previous PGY-2 Oncology Pharmacy Resident, Yale New Haven Hospital, Smilow Cancer Hospital

“During my rotation at North Haven, Sam pushed my Oncology learning to a new level with interactive topic discussions and overseeing “Drug of the Week” presentations to nursing staff. Sam was always testing my knowledge when it came to verifying orders and was always available to help if I had questions. There were a ton of changes to staffing during my rotation and Sam provided a very detailed calendar to follow preceptors, topics, and presentations which was very helpful. Sam was not my only preceptor during my rotation but was available to provide great feedback to me.”

Nicholas Rioux, PharmD
PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Yale New Haven Hospital
Preceptor Spotlight

Thomas “Tommy” Warzecha, PharmD

Tommy Warzecha, PharmD is a Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist II at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital.

He was born and raised in Middletown, Connecticut. His mother was the director of nursing at Middlesex Hospital, who encouraged him to volunteer at the hospital and pursue medicine. He started volunteering at Middlesex Hospital at the age of 16 and fell in love with pharmacy based on the real-world applicability of chemistry. Tommy obtained his doctorate in pharmacy at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Boston in 2020, where his interest for inpatient care and clinical pharmacy grew to emergency medicine and critical care. Tommy went on to complete his PGY-1 pharmacy residency at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in 2021. Tommy’s passion for critical care medicine stems from the team dynamic and the amazing ICU teams at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital (LMH). After his postgraduate training, Tommy took a position as a critical care pharmacist at LMH and the primary preceptor of the critical care rotation for all LMH PGY-1 pharmacy residents. He was recently promoted to Clinical Pharmacist II and will be taking BCCCP exam this year. Tommy very quickly became an integral member of the LMH pharmacy team and the critical care team.

Additionally, Tommy is the LMH representative on the System ICU Sedation Reduction Committee and LMH Venous Access Committee. He is also involved in the System Critical Care Pharmacist Committee, LMH Residency Advisory Committee, Workflow Optimization Committee, and System STAT Pharmacy Team. Tommy has also worked on projects for Digoxin Immune Fab Optimization, Continuous Infusion Sedation Reduction, and peripheral vasopressor evaluation.

As a preceptor, Tommy strongly believes in the value of the role of a pharmacy resident and pharmacist. “When I started this position, the providers and nurses were unaware of the role and capabilities of a pharmacy resident. I quickly was able to provide background information to the critical care department at LMH which drastically improved each resident’s experience in the ICU.” He also individualizes the resident’s experience “given each resident’s varied baseline understanding. I also encourage independence when appropriate and always remain available for any questions or backup. It was interesting and fun starting my career as a critical care pharmacist and preceptor during the early waves of COVID-19. The residents were able to play such a vital role in patient care during this time.”

Tommy’s motivation to precept stems from seeing the resident’s evolution. “I have had a few learners express how uncomfortable and nervous they are at the beginning of their critical care rotation. It is always so rewarding to see how comfortable and independent they become by the end of the rotation, and sometimes really fall in love with critical care medicine! I also love hearing interventions they correctly made and are proud of during staffing, codes, and other situations during the rotation.”

Another hallmark that Tommy coaches and mentors to learners is being a lifelong learner. “One of my favorite aspects of precepting is how much the learner can teach me! Each resident has taught me various things that helped me grow into the pharmacist I am today. I encourage the residents to discuss one article each week that they thought was interesting and complete a topic discussion on a niche topic that they find interesting. This helps the learner foster their own passions and helps me to be a continuous learner.”

Tommy loves spending time with his small but extremely close family. A fun fact is Tommy is a huge ice
hockey fan and loves the Pittsburgh Penguins. He plays hockey any chance he gets and loves other winter sports like skiing. Otherwise in the summertime, he can be found on the golf course!

Testimonials from former learners who were guided and inspired by Tommy:

“Tommy is an outstanding preceptor who was always willing to guide and support me during our two critical care rotations and throughout the residency year. I felt comfortable asking Tommy any question, no matter how big or small, knowing we would have a thoughtful discussion about it until I fully understood the answer. Tommy played a large role in the development of my clinical knowledge, critical thinking, and confidence. Additionally, Tommy is a well-integrated and respected member of the MICU team. Through his strong interdisciplinary collaboration, expertise in his specialty area, and dedication to precepting, Tommy set an example of the clinical pharmacist and preceptor that I aspire to be.”

Abigail Wolff, PharmD
PGY-2 Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Resident, Hackensack University Medication Center
Previous PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital

“Tommy was one of my first preceptors during my residency. The entire rotation was very structured with a good balance of modeling, independence, and education. Each day, I left rotation feeling more confident in my abilities and knowledge because of his precepting capabilities. In my second elective ICU rotation, he was able to curate an entirely new rotational experience for me, despite being in the same setting. I think provider and nursing trust in Tommy’s abilities is what helps strengthen his rotation for residents, as there is heavy reliance of pharmacy involvement in rounds, codes, and in day-to-day operations. Despite no longer being a resident, Tommy continues to be a valuable asset for myself as a staffing pharmacist.”

Jason Darmanin, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacist and Student Coordinator, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital
Previous PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital

“Tommy’s precepting of residents and students alike in our ICU demonstrates the qualities of not only an ideal preceptor but a mentor. When starting on rotation, Tommy assessed our comfort level on various critical conditions and tailored the rotation to optimize our learning. He provided hands-on training on how to prime a line on a pump, drawing up medications, and if there was ever a time that we did not feel confident in a situation he was patient and explained things thoroughly. Topic discussions on Tommy’s rotation were always relevant, interesting, and extraordinarily helpful. He also held weekly discussions on critical care related articles, which further helped my learning and in keeping up with relevant literature. Thanks to Tommy’s guidance, I felt confident in the ICU setting by the end of the rotation. Tommy is patient, knowledgeable, approachable, and a wonderful teacher. He truly is a standout preceptor!”

Nicole Stepak, PharmD
Transitions of Care Clinical Pharmacist, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital
Previous PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital

“Tommy is truly a positive role model and mentor throughout my ICU rotation. He used an effective balance of coaching and facilitating to allow me to develop in the ideal learning situation. Tommy effectively taught me the most important information for an ICU pharmacist to know while also allowing me to explore specific areas that I was more interested in. He gave frequent, actionable feedback that allowed me to develop throughout the rotation. In addition to his natural precepting style, Tommy has also developed positive relationships with our ICU providers and nurses that helped ease my transition into the ICU. Overall, Tommy has created a rewarding critical care experience that I am confident has made me a better pharmacist.”

James Farrell, PharmD
PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital
Preceptor Spotlight

Heather Goodwin, PharmD

Heather Goodwin is an ambulatory clinical pharmacy specialist in behavioral health at Yale New Haven Hospital.

She was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. Heather completed her bachelor’s degree in biology at Curry College in 2011 and her master’s degree in pharmaceutical sciences with a focus on toxicology from Northeastern University in 2013. In an effort to combine her interests of patient care and drug safety, she decided to complete her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Northeastern in 2018. Heather completed her PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at the University of Vermont Medical Center in 2019 and PGY-2 psychiatry pharmacy residency at Yale New Haven Hospital in 2020. Heather has always been passionate about advocating and caring for underserved patient populations. However, her APPE and PGY-1 experiences in both psychiatry and public health allowed Heather to understand the critical role of the pharmacist within a behavioral health team. Her passion for psychiatry stems from her relationships with the patients she cares for and the team she works with. Her goal is to make sure every psychotropic management is individualized, effective, safe, tolerable, and collaborative.

After completing her postgraduate training, Heather accepted an ambulatory behavioral health position and embarked on a new journey to establish outpatient pharmacy services at the New Haven Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) and the Continuing Care Clinic (CCC). Heather quickly integrated into the clinic and became an integral and trusted member of the interdisciplinary team. As a result, she established collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) services and is able to independently manage medication regimens for referred patients. Her other job responsibilities include conducting patient co-visits with psychiatry providers, participating in clinic rounds, leading medication education groups for patients, and managing and monitoring clozapine and long-acting injectable antipsychotics.

Heather has led a number of strategic projects focused on developing and establishing ambulatory behavioral health clinical pharmacy services, identifying and preventing behavioral health transitions of care issues, and assessing opioid overdose risk to estimate the benefit of naloxone storage in outpatient psychiatry clinics. She has also served as a team member for other projects aimed to improve opioid stewardship, discharge medication reconciliation of long-acting injectable antipsychotics, and consistency with extrapyramidal symptom prevention strategies. Additionally, Heather is a member of the Yale New Haven Behavioral Health Integration Task Force, Yale New Haven Health System Employee Engagement Committee, and American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacist (AAPP) Workforce Development Committee. She has also made significant contributions to the development of the depression and opioid use disorder ambulatory signature care pathways.

Heather is a preceptor for the PGY-1 pharmacy practice, PGY-1 community pharmacy, PGY-2 psychiatry, and PGY-2 ambulatory care pharmacy residency programs. Heather has also lectured for the Yale School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program and the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. She also developed an annual advanced psychopharmacology lecture series for PGY-4 psychiatry medical residents.

Heather would describe her precepting style as encouraging and engaging. Heather works with her learners to develop an individualized plan for success so that, in particular for pharmacy residents, they are confident and comfortable in optimizing psychotropic medications and overall caring for patients once they enter independent practice, even if it is outside the psychiatry specialty. She engages learners by understanding their strengths,
opportunities for growth, and how they learn best. Learners are given the opportunity to re-enforce medication principles by daily hands-on application of the material. Heather’s goal is that learners complete their rotation with a practical understanding of psychotropic medications and the confidence to optimize psychotropic regimens. Learners are encouraged to ask questions and advocate for their learning needs when on rotation.

Heather’s favorite thing about precepting is witnessing the growth of learners over the course of the rotation. Heather loves sharing the excitement when a learner develops the most optimized plan for a complex patient case or when their recommendation is consistent with their preceptor’s plan. The most exciting thing as a preceptor is celebrating the learner’s transformation as their confidence increases and they take on a more independent role in the clinic setting. Witnessing this transformation makes precepting one of Heather’s most motivating and rewarding job responsibilities.

Outside of work, Heather enjoys traveling, cooking, reading, and spending time with family and friends. She enjoys spending time in nature, especially through camping, hiking, and fishing. Heather is an avid animal lover and dedicated pet parent to her two cats and tortoise.

Testimonials from former learners that were guided and inspired by Heather:

“Heather’s passion for mental health care was evident from my first day on rotation with her. She has effortlessly integrated herself into a clinic where there was previously no pharmacist role. The rapport she has built with the Intensive Outpatient Clinic team, provides an amazing learning opportunity for pharmacy residents. Heather works in a unique setting that provides a different perspective to psychiatric pharmacy. On inpatient psychiatric units the main goal is to stabilize patients and ensure their safety. In the outpatient setting with Heather, I learned valuable skills about deprescribing psychiatric medications to make regimens sustainable for patients. Heather helped me develop skills to think about medication regimens from a different point of view, which I find incredibly important. Aside from my rotation with Heather, she is a member on my longitudinal project team, and has provided me with extremely useful feedback to help me improve my project management skills as well as ideas to develop a successful project. Heather has helped me on my path to grow into a practicing clinical psychiatric pharmacist, and those who have the opportunity to learn from her should consider themselves eternally grateful.”

Lauren Bertocci, PharmD, BCPS
PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Resident
Previous PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Yale New Haven Hospital

“Heather Goodwin is a one-of-a-kind preceptor highlighted through the time and attention she gives to each learner. Her ability to provide extensive and detailed feedback reflects how present she is with learners and how highly she prioritizes precepting. Qualities of empathy and tolerance are central to who Heather is, which cultivates a safe environment for learning and growing. She is a talented educator with an incredible understanding of her field and strong communication skills. Most notably, she encourages real-world application and offers generous amounts of her time and patience to support learners as they build their own clinical decision making. Demonstrating her genuine interest in the development of those she precepts, she continues to offer herself as a resource for guidance beyond the duration of an experience with her. I feel lucky to have worked alongside someone as special as Heather to role model excellent precepting and patient care.”

Markella Cervenak, PharmD
PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Yale New Haven Hospital

“Heather is an incredibly knowledgeable, patient, and supportive preceptor. She takes the time to bring concepts back to the basics to ensure that you’re able to build on foundational knowledge. Through her teaching style, she has allowed her learners to build confidence in their own practice. I feel very fortunate to have had Heather as a preceptor throughout my residency experience and am proud to be able to call her a colleague!”

Monica Fahmy, PharmD
YNHH Multi-specialty pharmacist
Previous PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Resident
Preceptor Spotlight

Jonathan Burdick, PharmD

Jonathan Burdick is an internal medicine clinical pharmacist at Yale New Haven Hospital. He was born and raised in Grove City, Pennsylvania. He completed his undergraduate course work and pharmacy education at the University of Kentucky. Following graduation, he went on to complete a PGY1 residency at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia and a PGY2 residency in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin. He joined the medicine pharmacy team at York Street Campus in August of 2020.

Jon was inspired to pursue a career in pharmacy due to his love of chemistry and respect for healthcare from his mother, who provided 38 years of service as a registered nurse. His exceptional preceptors during his student rotations provided him with the inspiration to always be a visible presence on hospital floors, help medical residents think like pharmacists and to always have a focus on paying it forward for the next generation of pharmacy learners.

Jon’s clinical interests include nephrology, iron deficiency, infectious disease, anticoagulation and parenteral nutrition. He is a member of the preceptor development committee and has created a presentation for the committee that discusses challenges and learning opportunities while precepting students and residents during the evening shift.

During his time at YNHH, Jon has precepted both APPE students and PGY1 residents during their staffing block. His focus on precepting surrounds providing clear, concise communication with all disciplines and to instill practical skills that help balance the operational and clinical knowledge needed for well-rounded pharmacy practice.

Outside of work he enjoys running, cycling, reading, cooking, hiking and exploring new areas by train. Jon has lived in five cities during his career thus far and has loved his time living in New Haven. He is an enthusiastic proponent of the Elm City and for all Connecticut has to offer.
Preceptor Spotlight

Testimonials from former learners that were guided and inspired by Jonathan:

“I greatly appreciated spending time with Jon during my orientation as a PGY1 as I felt the clinical and practical skills he taught me set me up for a successful year. As a preceptor, Jon is very attentive to target the experience towards the resident’s interests. On my first day with Jon, he asked me about my areas of interest and future career goals. During my ESUR staffing block with Jon, he often brought to my attention interesting infectious diseases cases on his service for us to discuss together. He made sure to allow me the opportunity to address any clinical questions in that area independently to build my skills. He was readily available to lend a helping hand and was always interested to talk through interesting cases together. Jon displays excellent precepting skills and I greatly enjoy working with him!”

Bailey Thayer, PharmD
PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Resident, Yale New Haven Hospital
Previous PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Yale New Haven Hospital

“Jon consistently exemplifies the qualities of a pharmacy practice role model and is an integral member of the interdisciplinary team. Despite being remote during my staffing rotation with Jon, he went above and beyond to ensure I had a quality learning experience and felt supported throughout my rotation. Jon’s enthusiasm and passion for patient care is infectious. He is always looking to support and develop relationships with residents. I hope to work with Jon again in the future and am sure that he will continue to be an excellent support to future residents!”

Cara Rotatori, PharmD
PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Yale New Haven Hospital

“As a pharmacy student in my last year, preparing to become a pharmacist can be overwhelming. Having preceptors that show dedication towards our learning can help mitigate the anxieties related to our transition to licensed pharmacists. Dr. Jonathan Burdick deserves this recognition from Yale New Haven as he prioritized my growth and learning experience. The profound impact Dr. Burdick has on student pharmacists both personally and professionally is immeasurable. What makes him an extraordinary preceptor are the traits he possesses as an individual; genuine care for his students and patients, passion for the field of pharmacy, and humility. He constantly looks for new learning challenges for his students and has been very helpful in assisting me and others to transition to professional practice. He is always willing to share advice about both school and the path after graduation. Having preceptors that are able to guide us through this exciting but stressful transition is crucial as they can help us develop both the clinical skills and the confidence to succeed as future pharmacists. Overall, I am grateful to Dr. Burdick for his commitment to my learning.”

Ola Bulli
Pharmacy Student, University of St. Joseph
Class of 2023

We’d like to hear from you!
https://form.jotform.com/212693364393159
Preceptor Spotlight

Anthony J. Renzoni, PharmD, BCPS

Anthony Renzoni is an emergency medicine (EM) pharmacist at Bridgeport Hospital (BH).

He was born and raised in Oxford, Connecticut and is a 2018 graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. He completed a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at Yale New Haven Hospital in 2019 and then moved on to complete a PGY2 pharmacy residency in emergency medicine at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois in 2020. Specializing in EM pharmacy appealed to Anthony because of his desire to manage a variety of disease states with a broad range of acuity. He was inspired by his preceptors during his APPE and PGY1 pharmacy residency years, who responded bedside with ED teams to provide critical drug information on the spot and assist nurses with obtaining and preparing medications for administration.

Anthony’s first job after residency was a clinical manager of emergency medicine position at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Hospital in New York City. He then came back to YNHHS as the EM pharmacist at BH. In his current role as an EM pharmacist, some of his responsibilities include responding to medical alerts, stroke alerts, and traumas. Within EM, his clinical interests include medication safety and toxicology.

With respect to precepting, his philosophy is that learners must become comfortable being uncomfortable in the emergency department. It is during the uncomfortable moments where a learner will grow. In situations that are critical, he establishes an expectation at the start of the rotation that he will make it very clear when the learner will be responsible for providing an accurate answer to a question based on a logical rationale.

Anthony believes that it is very important for learners to continually work on building their own clinical problem-solving skills. As a preceptor, he likes to gauge not only the clinical knowledge of learners, but also their ability to expand their own knowledge. When he identifies an area of improvement, he likes to share clinical pearls and to point the learner in the right direction by suggesting appropriate resources, such as guidelines, landmark primary literature, and blog posts.

Learners who have questions and independently perform their own drug information research, and then present their findings to him motivate him to continue precepting. He finds that this form of questioning aids in his further clinical knowledge expansion and challenges him to stay on top of clinical guideline updates and pivotal studies that are published.

Anthony enjoys coaching learners to become integral members of the ED health care team with the ability to be confident drug information resources. It gives him great satisfaction when ED nurses, providers, and medical residents can rely on the pharmacy learner (both students and residents) to answer their questions and provide hands-on bedside care, such as preparing medications for administration.

Activities that Anthony is involved with other than direct patient care include his participation with the Stroke Steering, ED Interdisciplinary, Pharmacy STAT, and Pediatric ED committees of Bridgeport Hospital. In addition, he participates in the Pharmacy Research & Publication Committee of the health system. He is currently working to implement a STAT protocol as well as an official dosing strategy for diltiazem.

Anthony was honored with the BH “Rx Star” award in 2022.
Preceptor Spotlight

Anthony has a fraternal twin and has a niece and nephew who were born at YNH Children’s Hospital and refer to him as “Uncle Tony”. Interestingly, Anthony was not only born at BH, but he was treated for third degree burns there as well.

Outside of work, Anthony enjoys “working out” and running. He also loves traveling, especially to see friends and former co-residents across the country.

Testimonials from former learners that were guided and inspired by Anthony:

“I’m excited for the opportunity to speak about my experience working with one of YNHHS’ finest pharmacists, Anthony Renzoni. Anthony was my Emergency Medicine preceptor for my first experience in the ED, one that seemed intimidating at first. He demonstrated excellent communication regarding my comfortability in the ED, my goals for the rotation, and what my learning interests were. Anthony was flexible with his schedule and worked with me in creating a plan to achieve the best possible experience during our time together. He was available for questions and discussions, and he prioritized his role as a teacher and mentor. He provided a healthy balance of independent learning opportunities to challenge me while also ensuring I felt supported, encouraged, and engaged in my own growth as a pharmacist. He holds incredible knowledgeable in the field of emergency medicine, and integrated operational and clinical knowledge to provide superior care for our patients. I can say with certainty that I walked away from my emergency medicine experience a substantially improved pharmacist. Anthony stands out as an example of an excellent preceptor, clinical pharmacist, and valued member of the healthcare team.”

Lucas Clari, PharmD
PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident, Bridgeport Hospital

“Anthony was an outstanding preceptor for my emergency medicine rotation at Bridgeport Hospital. He established goals and expectations early on to provide a positive learning experience that matched my objectives. I wanted as much hands-on experience as possible, and he made it happen, from priming IV lines to drawing up medications during a code. He provided the perfect balance of autonomy, supervision, and support. His guidance empowered me to step out of my comfort zone and grow confident as a student pharmacist. He demonstrated his commitment as a professional mentor and teacher through the provision of regular feedback, encouragement, and support. Anthony truly has a gift for teaching and I am grateful I had the opportunity to learn from such a kind, compassionate, and knowledgeable preceptor!”

Iram Nasreen
Pharmacy Student, University of Connecticut
Class of 2023
Pharmacy Resident Outings
In 2018, the pharmacy residency class created four new committees that are “Run by residents, for the residents.” Our resident-run committees are dedicated to increasing the opportunities to network and develop leadership skills. Although involvement is optional, most PGY1 and PGY2 residents choose to participate due to our common interests in promoting pharmacy development.

**REST**

PGY2 Chair: Lauren Bertocci  
PGY1 Chair: Eve Carciofi

The mission of the YNHHS Resident Emotional Support Team (REST) Committee is to promote resiliency and emotional support amongst residents across the health system. Our focus is to coordinate gatherings and social events (in-person and/or virtual) to encourage resident networking and decompression from daily duties. In doing so, we strive to promote self-care and foster connections between the PGY1 and PGY2 residents, and preceptors outside of the work environment.

**Alumni Relations**

Senior Chair: Kelly Oldziej  
PGY1 Co-Chairs: Emily Sajda, Marissa Saber, & Cara Rotatori

The Alumni Relations Committee’s vision is to effectively enable a cohesive Pharmacy Residency Alumni group to connect and grow with current residents and preceptors. Our focus is to help those of YNNHS past and present to stay connected to the residency program, providing the opportunity to publicly share professional accomplishments and achievements, as well as personal events and milestones. We thoroughly enjoy moments to bring us all together, including our biannual editions of the Residency Connection and our ASHP Midyear Networking Event!

**Mentorship and Recruitment**

PGY2 Chair: Bailey Thayer  
PGY1 Chair: Olivia Spence

The mentorship and recruitment committee is focused on fostering a sustained relationship between pharmacists and trainees in the health system. We aim to recruit top candidates for our residency program and strive to promote the growth and development of future pharmacy leaders.

**Pharmacy Week**

Chair: Hui Lin

Every year, pharmacy leadership partners with a small group of residents to create the Pharmacy Week committee. We aim to recognize our department of pharmacy services by hosting a weeklong event featuring fun activities, complementary meals, and gifts/prizes to show appreciation and celebrate accomplishments for all that pharmacists and technicians do and unify our department. We are exceptionally grateful for everyone within our pharmacy community, and look forward to many more celebrations in the years to come!

Activities included:
- Halloween candy raffle, Panera meals, ice cream treats
- Zoom Jeopardy
- Daily puzzle competition
- Virtual pet parade
- Donations for the CT Food Bank
Please submit any accomplishments to Alumni Updates (jotform.com)

Publications


Pharmacist Accomplishments (Jan 2022 – Dec 2022)


Platform Presentations

**Al-Mazraawy B**. The Art of Effective Feedback. Presentation at Preceptor Bootcamp; 2022.

**Bootle J**. Pharmacist role in transitions of care. Presentation at Tri-State Health-System Pharmacy Summit; 2022.


**Caltagirone M**. To b or not TB Discontinued: Management of Hepatotoxicity During Treatment of Tuberculosis. Presentation at CSHP Catch the Wave; 2022.

**Cohen L**. Preceptor SOS. Presentation at Preceptor Bootcamp; 2022.

**D'Ambrosi J**. Update on COVID-19 Immunizations & Treatment Options. Presentation at CT Compounding Conference; 2022.

**Decaminada G**. Home Infusion Pharmacy. Presentation at CPA; 2022.

**DelVecchio M**, **Debach J**. Gene therapy. Presentation at CPA; 2022.

**Determan M**. Long Acting Antiviral Therapy. Presentation at CSHP Virtual CE; 2022.


**Kelley S**. Wellbeing Symposium. Presentation at CPA; 2022.


**Malkhasyan V**, **Renauer M**. Diversity Panel. Presentation at CSHP Catch the Wave; 2022.
Pharmacist Accomplishments (Jan 2022 – Dec 2022)


**Narayanan B, Bivona J.** Multiple Sclerosis Treatment in Women: Opportunities and Challenges for Pharmacists in the DMT Treatment Era. Presentation at CPA Women in Pharmacy; 2022.

**Narayanan B.** Specialty Pharmacy. Presentation at CPA; 2022.


**Pulk R, Rychalsky K, McGorty K.** Ins and Outs of Board Certification. Presentation at CSHP Virtual CE; 2022.

**Pulk R.** Pharmacogenomic CDS. Presentation at UMN PGX Conference; 2022.

**Pulk R.** Pharmacogenomics. Presentation at CSHP Catch the Wave; 2022.

**Tran L, Lyons H.** Research. Presentation at CSHP Catch the Wave; 2022.

**Walker K.** Technology Insight: The Many Roads to an Opioid Dashboard. Presentation at Tri-State Health-System Pharmacy Summit; 2022.

**Wright S.** Precision Therapy for RA&PA Biologics. Presentation at CPA Midwinter Conference; 2022.

**Posters**

**Bisni Narayanan** was awarded the Margherita Giuliano Award by CPA

**Joe Rosano** was awarded the New Haven's Finest Award by the CF Foundation

**Kristen Belfield** was awarded the WNECoP Health Sciences Acute Care Preceptor of the Year

**Mahmoud Ammar** was awarded the Winning Poster for Quality: Inpatient General Surgery's Reduction of Falls and Falls with Injury, at the JAZ Conference

**Marie Renauer** was awarded the Pharmacist of the Year by CSHP

**Marjorie Lazarre** was awarded the Paul G Pierpaoli Award by CSHP

**Matthew Merola** was awarded the Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award by CPA

**Richard Kiley** was awarded the Upsher-Smith Excellence in Innovation Award by CPA

**Steph Luon** was awarded the Daniel C. Leone Pharmacist of the Year Award by CPA

**YNHHS MMC Dermatology Clinic** was awarded the CSHP Meritorious Team Achievement Award

**YNHHS** was awarded for Excellence in Network Sourcing and Aggregation by Vizient

**YNHHS** was awarded for Excellence in Public Policy by Vizient

**We’d like to hear from you!**
https://form.jotform.com/212693364393159

**Posters**

**Awards**

**Allie Barton** was awarded the ACCP EMED PRN New Member Award

**Amanda Orabone** was awarded the Winning Poster for NEMG: Improving Glycemic Control for Patients with Diabetes in the Ambulatory Setting, at the JAZ Conference
Brian Miller was a senior pharmacist in Drug Information and the first surgical intensive care unit clinical pharmacist at YNHH. His years at the hospital spanned between 1985 and 1997. His death in 2012 was sudden and untimely. Brian’s strong work ethic and dedication to the patients and clinicians he served prompted two of his close friends, Bob Harrison (class of 1975) and Jim Sarigianis, to establish the “Brian E. Miller Endowment for Pharmacy Education” in his memory in 2017.

Proceeds from this fund will support educational opportunities for pharmacy department practitioners.

As residency alumni, consider giving back to the department as a token of appreciation for the benefits you have enjoyed through your residency experience at YNHH. Generous donors like you will be the key to the fund’s continued success.

**How to Give**

Tax-deductible donations to the endowment can be made using the following.

**Electronic gifts:**

https://www.givetoynhh.org/donate

Direct the gift to “other” category - “Brian E. Miller Pharmacy Fund”.

**Conventional mail gifts:**


In the section marked, “I wish to direct my gift to” indicate “The Brian E. Miller Pharmacy Fund”.

Mail to: Office of Development, Yale New Haven Hospital, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 0658-997

Follow Us at #YNHHSPharmacy
Eric Tichy obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Connecticut, completed his postgraduate pharmacy residency training at Yale New Haven Hospital and received a Master of Business Administration from Yale University School of Management. He currently works for the Mayo Clinic where he is Division Chair, Supply Chain Management responsible for the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain and Associate Professor of Pharmacy at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. Dr. Tichy’s professional interests include leadership, immunology, plasma protein therapeutics and supply chain management. He is past chair of the American Society of Transplantation’s Transplant Pharmacy Community of Practice, past president of the Connecticut Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and contributing editor in therapeutics for the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy. Dr Tichy has held leadership positions in state and national pharmacy and medical organizations, is a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American Society of Transplantation, has published over forty journal articles and book chapters and regularly presents research at national medical meetings.

Eric received the 2022 John J. Zugich Distinguished Alumni Award and was honored at the Class of 2022 Residency Graduation on June 3, 2022.
2022 Residency Alumni Committee

Emily Sajda, Co-chair
Marissa Saber, Co-chair
Cara Rotatori, Co-chair
Kelly Oldziej, Senior chair
Phillippe Recault
Markella Cervenak
Hui Lin
Blerim Dema
Allie Lindo
Eve Carciofi
Mariam Farah
James Sarigianis, Advisor
Lydia Tran, Advisor

Next Issue: Alumni Edition
- YNHH System Pharmacy Updates
- Distinguished Alumni Spotlight
- Alumni News
- Pharmacy Outings

Jobs
Great job opportunities at Yale New Haven Health in all levels, inpatient and outpatient. Check out https://jobs.ynhhs.org/jobs for the complete pharmacy job listing.

Got News?
Any life events/photos within the last year that you would like to share? (ie. promotions, pets, marriage, kids, hobbies, moved, new house, accomplishments, etc.)

We’d like to hear from you!
Fill out the online form at https://form.jotform.com/212693364393159
OR
Email the YNHHS Residency Alumni Relations Committee at PharmResidencyAlumni@ynhh.org and share your news for publication in this newsletter. Be sure to provide your residency graduation year.

Contact Us
PharmResidencyAlumni@ynhh.org

Join Our LinkedIn Group
https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2139413/

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Residency Program Directors & Coordinators | Preceptor Spotlight | Pharmacy Resident Outings
Resident Committees | Pharmacist Accomplishments (Jan 2021- Dec 2021) | Endowment Fund | Distinguished Alumni Award