

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs Faculty Biographies

Timothy M. Heimann, Pharm.D., MBA

Assistant Director, Community Outpatient Service & Pharmacy Service

Dr. Heimann received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2008. Following graduation he started his career as a staff pharmacist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Between 2009 and 2014 Dr. Heimann has held various management positions within inpatient and clinical pharmacy. During this time Dr. Heimann completed a Master of Business Administration in Health Care Management from Indiana Wesleyan University. He served as the Associate Chief of Pharmacy Operations before becoming the Chief of Pharmacy in January 2016. During the summer of 2020, Dr. Heimann took on a new role as the Assistant Director of Community Outpatient Service & Pharmacy Service. In this position he maintains his role as the Chief of Pharmacy, while now having additional oversight responsibilities of the Community Based Outpatient Clinics within the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Heimann is involved with precepting both pharmacy students and residents during their administration rotations. He is active in the profession and has held officer positions within the Cleveland Society of Health System Pharmacists and the Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacists.

Ukwen Akpoji, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCIDP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Antimicrobial Stewardship & Infectious Diseases

Dr. Akpoji received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2015. Upon graduation, he completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Atlanta VA Healthcare System. Dr. Akpoji completed his PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS) in 2017 and was subsequently hired as its Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist. His responsibilities include data analysis of VANEOMS antimicrobial use; coordination of inpatient/outpatient stewardship interventions; antimicrobial patient education; and preceptorship of PGY-2 Infectious Disease, PGY-2 Geriatric and PGY-1 residents. He is board-certified in both Pharmacotherapy (2017) and Infectious Diseases Pharmacy (2021) with certificates in Health Informatics (VA/AMIA 10x10) and Advanced Antimicrobial Stewardship (MAD-ID). Dr. Akpoji currently serves as chair of the VANEOMS Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (designated as an IDSA Center of Excellence), pharmacy representative of the VANEOMS Research & Development Committee, and co-chair of the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy Advocacy Committee.

Mary Ellen (Molly) Amos, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Amos graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2015. During her time as a student, Dr. Amos worked as a pharmacy intern at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS) where she became very interested in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. After graduation, she went on to complete her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at The Cleveland Clinic, Main Campus in 2016 and her PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at the VANEOMS in 2017. Following residency, Dr. Amos began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VANEOMS in August 2017 and she currently practices at the Lake County Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Dr. Amos's responsibilities and duties include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics, collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, and responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-2 pharmacy residents and PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Amos received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2018.

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Leslie Bittner, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics

Dr. Bittner is originally from Cochranton, Pennsylvania. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2011. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency followed by a PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She obtained board certification in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) in 2013 and board certification in geriatrics (BCGP) in 2016. Following residency, Dr. Bittner continued with the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist on the Cardiology and Surgical units for nearly 5 years before returning to Geriatrics in 2018. Her current responsibilities include completing comprehensive medication therapy reviews, providing drug information, performing discharge counseling, and participating in interdisciplinary team patient assessments for the Community Living Center (long-term care), the Geriatric Evaluation and Management inpatient unit, and the geriatrics outpatient clinic. She also acts as a preceptor for pharmacy students, PGY-1 pharmacy residents, and PGY-2 geriatric pharmacy residents.

Paul W Burleson, Pharm.D.

Inpatient Pharmacy Manager

Dr. Burleson received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2010. Following graduation he started his career as a CVS pharmacist before joining the Cleveland VAMC as a staff pharmacist in 2011. Since 2014, Dr. Burleson has been serving in his current role as Inpatient Pharmacy Manager where he is responsible for overseeing the day to day operations of the inpatient pharmacy.

Heather Carey, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health PACT

Dr. Carey obtained her Bachelor of Science in biology from University of Florida in 2008 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2012 from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She then completed ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency training at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, North Carolina followed by PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency training at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. She subsequently took a position as the Clinical Psychiatric Pharmacist Specialist for University Hospitals in Richmond Heights Ohio and worked there until November 2018. She also served as adjunct faculty for Case Western Reserve University Department of Psychiatry from 2015-2018. Thereafter, she transitioned to the role of Mental Health PACT Pharmacy Specialist doing televideo appointments for the Warren CBOC in November 2018. Dr. Carey earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2015.

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Antonio Carson, Pharm.D., MS, BCGP Clinical Pharmacy Manager Director, PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Carson is a 10-year veteran of the US Navy, where he worked at as a pharmacy technician and discovered his love for the profession of pharmacy. Dr. Carson received his Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He also received his Master of Science in Pharmacy Leadership and his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati. He completed a PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 geriatric specialty residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Carson is a Board-Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP). He is responsible for providing direct supervision of the Clinical Pharmacy Specialists in acute and long-term care. He also maintains a clinical practice in Geriatrics by completing drug regimen reviews and providing pharmacotherapy recommendations for Long Term Care patients. He is also the residency program director for the PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program. His practice interests include geriatrics and internal medicine.

Natasha Conley, Pharm.D., BCACP Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Conley is originally from Youngstown, Ohio. At the University of Toledo, she majored in Pharmacology/Toxicology and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree in 2009. Subsequently, she attended the University of Kentucky where she earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2013. Upon graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with an emphasis in ambulatory care at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. In 2014, Dr. Conley began her career at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist focusing primarily on diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension. In addition, has been a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist since 2016. Currently, Dr. Conley is the PACT Clinical Pharmacy Manager overseeing the clinical pharmacy specialists who work in ambulatory care.

Danielle N Cooney, Pharm.D., BC-ADM Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Nephrology

Dr. Cooney studied chemistry at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio then graduated from The Ohio State University in June 2005 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited specialty residency in Primary Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She is currently working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in nephrology at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, Ohio. Responsibilities include precepting pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Cooney also manages a Renal/Anemia Clinic as well as completes all non-formulary requests sent to the renal clinic. She collaborates with the nephrology team and provides services to the CKD shared medical appointments. Danielle received her Board Certification in Advance Diabetes Management in 2008.

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Alison Dailey, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry (Lorain CBOC)

Dr. Dailey earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Ohio Northern University in 2017. After graduation, she completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program at the VANEOHS. After completion of her residency training, Dr. Dailey joined the VANEOHS mental health team at the Lorain VA Clinic. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formulary consults, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents. Dr. Dailey received her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2018 and her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2019.

Danielle Danzi, Pharm.D., BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics

Dr. Danzi is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Virginia Tech in 2005 and went on to complete her Doctor of Pharmacy from VCU School of Pharmacy in 2009. After graduation, she completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. Following residency, Dr. Danzi has held several staff pharmacist and clinical pharmacist positions in the inpatient setting. Her interest in geriatrics started while working as a clinical pharmacist in internal medicine at UVA Medical Center. She then became board certified in geriatrics in 2013. Prior to joining the geriatrics service at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, she worked as a consultant pharmacist for the PACE program in Charlottesville, Virginia. Her current responsibilities include completing comprehensive medication therapy reviews, providing drug information, performing discharge counseling, participating in interdisciplinary team patient assessments for the Community Living Center (long-term care), and the geriatrics outpatient clinic.

Charlie Dorflinger, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) Coordinator

Dr. Dorflinger obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Chemical Biology and Master of Science in Chemistry from Case Western Reserve University in 2014. He went on to obtain his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2018 from Northeast Ohio Medical University. After graduation, he completed both an ASHP accredited PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 psychiatric pharmacy residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). After completion of his residency training, Dr. Dorflinger joined the VANEOHS team as a mental health clinical pharmacy specialist at the Canton CBOC. In mid-2021, Dr. Dorflinger transitioned to a new role as Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) Coordinator for the VANEOHS at the Wade Park campus. Dr. Dorflinger received his Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2019 and his Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2020.

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Brady Ellis, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Medicine

Dr. Ellis received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2011. Following graduation, he started his career as a staff pharmacist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. From 2014 to 2021 he began working for Cleveland Clinic Martin Health in South Florida as a decentralized clinical pharmacist in internal medicine and later as a clinical pharmacy specialist in emergency medicine. In 2021, he began his current position as a clinical pharmacy specialist in emergency medicine at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). His current role involves precepting pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Ellis received his Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy (BCPS) in 2018.

Aubrey Felton, Pharm.D.

Outpatient Pharmacy Supervisor

Dr. Felton graduated from Ohio Northern University in 2008. Upon graduation, she became an outpatient staff pharmacist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Felton transitioned into her role as outpatient pharmacy manager in 2015. Some of her responsibilities include oversight to the outpatient technicians, liaison for the pharmacy interns, APPE student preceptor, preceptor to PGY2 residents, and various outpatient operations.

Megan M. Foreman, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health PACT

Dr. Foreman completed her undergraduate pharmacy prerequisites at Youngstown State University, and graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2016 from Northeast Ohio Medical University. Immediately following graduation, Dr. Foreman completed her ASHP accredited PGY-1 residency at Mercy Health Lorain Hospital, as well as earning her teaching certificate from the University of Findlay. Dr. Foreman furthered her training by completing her ASHP accredited PGY-2 psychiatric pharmacy residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) in 2018. Following residency, Dr. Foreman served as the pharmacy director for Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital located in Toledo, OH, one of six hospitals owned and operated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Dr. Foreman currently works as a mental health clinical pharmacy specialist at the VANEOHS community based outpatient clinic located in Youngstown, OH. She earned her board certification in psychiatric pharmacy in 2019, and is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

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Paige S. Gast, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Dr. Gast obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree and minor in Neuroscience in 2013 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2017 from The Ohio State University. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as well as a teaching certificate from Northeast Ohio Medical University. She then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Gast currently works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at VA Northeast Ohio David F. Winder Outpatient Clinic located in Mansfield, Ohio. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management to community based outpatient clinics, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formularies, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Gast earned her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2018 and her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2019. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Megan Goering, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Bensi received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2014. She went on to complete an ASHP accredited specialty residency in Ambulatory Care at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, Ohio in 2015. She worked as a Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at The Ohio State University Division of Internal Medicine until June 2017. Dr. Bensi began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in July 2017. Responsibilities include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and shared medical appointments. Other duties include collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia as well as responding to drug information requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents and PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Bensi received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2017.

Sara Gordon, Pharm.D., BCOP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Oncology

Dr. Gordon earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree from The Ohio State University in 2012 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Auburn University in 2016. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the Memphis VA Medical Center, followed by a PGY-2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency at the Durham VA Health Care System. Following the completion of her residencies in 2018 she began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Oncology at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Her daily responsibilities include evaluation of chemotherapy and supportive care regimens, completion of non-formulary consults, and answering drug information questions. She serves as a preceptor for the PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 ID residency programs. She also participates in the Research committee and Comparative Effectiveness of Medical Interventions Committee within the medical center, and she is an active member of Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA).

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Amy Hirsch Shumaker, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases

Dr. Hirsch earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy in May 2002. After graduation she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Following her PGY-1 year, Dr. Hirsch went on to complete an ASHP accredited PGY-2 training program in Infectious Disease at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, in Cleveland, OH. Dr. Hirsch is currently one of the Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacists at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System and specializes in HIV and Hepatitis. She holds a Senior Clinical Instructor appointment in the Department of Medicine at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine (CASE SOM) for her involvement in the CASE SOM Infectious Disease Fellows Program. In addition to providing clinical pharmacy services to the HIV clinic and GI clinics, she is also involved with numerous research and process improvement projects. Dr. Hirsch also serves as a co-preceptor for pharmacy residents and students on their VA rotations.

Carol A. Ingle Pharm.D., CACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist & Manager, Anticoagulation Clinic

Dr. Ingle received a BS in Pharmacy from the University of Toledo in 1988 and a Pharm D from The University of Florida in 2019. She has worked at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System since March 1988 in various capacities from Inpatient student, pharmacist to supervisor, Outpatient and Anticoagulation Clinics. She also has retail experience as well, from Revco, Rite Aid, Drug Mart and Giant Eagle. In 1996 was granted an ASHP Research and Education Foundation traineeship in Anticoagulation Management. In 2006 help to consolidate all Anticoagulation Clinics into one centralized clinic and became the Program Manager. Carol is a Board-Certified Anticoagulation Provider (CACP) since 2010 and has maintained the VA Anticoagulation Clinic as a Center of Excellence since 2013. She also participates in research and training of residents and students and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice for Northeast Ohio Medical University and helps with APPE students from all Ohio Pharmacy schools. Responsibilities include management of all staff in the Anticoagulation Clinic, quality management and safety data management as well as oversight of all anticoagulation for both inpatient and outpatient use. Dr. Ingle is also a member of the National VA subject matter expert group on Anticoagulation, which sets Anticoagulation practice guidelines for VA's nationwide.

Kiki Kapolis, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Spinal Cord Injury

Dr. Kapolis is originally from Bath, Ohio. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Findlay in 2017. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the Portland VA Medical Center in Portland, OR. Following the completion of her residencies in 2018, she began working as a staff pharmacist in the inpatient pharmacy at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System before taking her current role as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist on the Spinal Cord Injury unit. Her daily responsibilities include completing medication reconciliation, discharge counseling, antibiotic monitoring, chart reviews, completion of non-formulary consults, and answering drug information questions. She serves as a preceptor for the PGY-1 pharmacy residency. She also participates in the Research committee and Medication Safety Committee within the medical center.

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Ashley Kenzik, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDE

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Ashley Kenzik is originally from Lorain, Ohio. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2004. Following graduation, she started her career at Rite Aid; this store previously being a successful independent pharmacy helped establish her strong patient driven work ethic. She began volunteering for the Lorain County Free Clinic during her internship, eventually became a part of the Board of Directors serving as the secretary and pharmacy license holder and continues volunteers here to this day. She also has held an adjunct position with Lorain County College as a Pharmacology professor for Allied Health and Nursing in addition to precepting Pharmacy students from various pharmacy colleges. In 2007, Dr. Kenzik joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) as a staff outpatient pharmacist and quickly transitioned to the clinical realm as a Lipid Specialist and provided clinical pharmacy services for Home Based Primary Care (HBPC). She eventually Transitioned to a PACT Clinical pharmacist at the Lorain Community Outpatient Clinic where she continues to practice. Current responsibilities include disease state management with a focus on diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, pharmacy resident and student precepting as well as responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. She has participated in a number of pharmacy committees and projects during her tenure. She obtained her Ambulatory Care Board Certification (BCACP) in 2011 and became a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) in 2014.

Kaitlyn Knick, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Department

Dr. Knick, originally from Amherst, Ohio, graduated from The University of Findlay in 2017 and completed her PGY1 residency at Mercy Health – Lorain in June 2018. Following residency, Dr. Knick started her career as a clinical pharmacist at Firelands Regional Medical Center in Sandusky, Ohio until March 2019 when she transitioned to the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as an inpatient staff pharmacist. She has since then took on her current role of emergency department Clinical Pharmacy Specialist where she acts as an active pharmacy residency and student preceptor. Dr. Knick's role as an ED pharmacist involves medication reconciliation, antimicrobial stewardship, outpatient microbiology culture monitoring, drug information, emergency code response, and polypharmacy geriatric Veteran evaluations. She also serves as an emergency department and pharmacy representative on the VAMC Women's Health ED Committee.

Matthew Kubiak, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Spinal Cord Injury

Dr. Kubiak obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA in 2007. Following graduation, he started his career as a staff pharmacist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. In 2012 he transitioned to the Spinal Cord Injury unit as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. His daily duties include completing medication reconciliation, collaborating with providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, chart reviews, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing non-formulary drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. Dr. Kubiak is involved in precepting pharmacy residents as well as APPE pharmacy students. He is also a pharmacy resident teaching advisor. He represents pharmacy on the Interprofessional Pressure Injury Committee as well as the SCI LTC Admission Review Board.

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Christopher Lacey, Pharm.D., BCPS
Associate Chief, Clinical Pharmacy Services
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr Lacey is originally from Erie, Pennsylvania. He earned his Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in May 1999. After graduation he completed a 1 year Pharmacy Practice Residency at Hamot Hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Residency, Dr. Lacey has since worked at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, OH. He began in the area of Internal Medicine. He obtained board certification in pharmacotherapy in 2002 (BCPS). He became a part of pharmacy management in 2008. He is currently the Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Services at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. He is involved with precepting pharmacy residents and students from local pharmacy schools. He is also a member on various committees at both the local and regional level.

Sherry (Sharon) K. Milfred Laforest, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCP
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Cardiology

Dr. LaForest received her B.S. in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Minnesota in 1991 and 1992. She then completed a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Transplantation at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. She joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in July 2008 as the Clinical Specialist in Cardiology and Solid Organ transplantation. Prior to joining the VA, Dr. LaForest held positions as a Clinical Specialist in Heart Failure and Transplantation at Temple University in Philadelphia PA, Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, IN, and University Hospital-Case Medical Center in Cleveland, OH. She currently practices in the Heart Failure Shared Medical Appointment (SMA) group clinic, Heart Failure Transitional Care Clinic and the Heart Failure Medication Titration Clinic. She has ad hoc responsibilities with inpatient cardiology, electrophysiology, and solid organ transplant services. She serves on several committees including as the pharmacy representative to the Institutional Review Board and the Advanced Heart Failure Committee. She serves as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students in cardiology rotations.

Colleen P. LeHew, Pharm.D., BCPP
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry
Director, PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. LeHew graduated from Duquesne University in May 2010 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VANEOHS. After completing her residencies, Dr. LeHew joined the faculty at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University as a Clinical Assistant Professor and a Psychiatric Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Lutheran Hospital. In 2014, she returned to the VANEOHS where she is working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry. Her responsibilities include serving as a preceptor for psychiatric pharmacy specialty residents, pharmacy residents in other specialties and pharmacy students. Other duties consist of providing clinical pharmacy services for inpatient and outpatient psychiatry. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists and the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacology and has been a board certified psychiatric pharmacy specialist since 2013.

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Mary Beth Low, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Pharmacoeconomics

Dr. Low graduated from Creighton University in 1995 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Low is currently the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Pharmacoeconomics for the VA Healthcare System serving Ohio, Indiana and Michigan (VISN 10). At the VANEOLS in Cleveland (Wade Park campus) her responsibilities include providing medication use and cost analysis information to pharmacy leadership at the 11 facilities within VISN 10 as well as monitoring performance on medication initiatives to improve patient care and impact drug expenditure. Other duties include participating in the VISN 10 PBM Subcommittee, the national PBM Research Steering Committee and both national and local Medication Use Evaluation Committees. Dr. Low precepts both PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents in Formulary Management and MUE experiences. Dr. Low began her career as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She provided clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and previously served as the director of the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency program.

Jennifer Luxenburg, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care and Endocrinology Diabetes (Parma)

Incoming 2022 Director, PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Luxenburg graduated from The Ohio State University in 2011 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. After graduation, she completed both her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residencies at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOLS). Upon completion of residency training in 2013, Dr. Luxenburg accepted a position as a Primary Care Clinical Specialist at The Cleveland Clinic. She established clinical pharmacy services at The Cleveland Clinic Stephanie Tubbs Jones Family Health Center and was involved in pharmacy and medical resident education. Dr. Luxenburg returned to VANEOLS in February of 2017 as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the Parma Community Based Outpatient Clinic where she practices in primary care and endocrinology diabetes clinics. Current responsibilities include disease state management with a focus on diabetes and diabetes technology, hypertension and dyslipidemia. Dr. Luxenburg serves as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students and has been a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist since 2013.

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Alessandra Lyman, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Lyman received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Northeastern University in 2015. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Boston Healthcare System in 2016 and a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2017. After completion of residency, she worked as a Clinical Ambulatory Pharmacist at Wentworth Douglass Hospital/Wentworth Health Partners in Dover, NH. Dr. Lyman returned to VANEOLS in 2018 as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in 'Meds to Beds', and then transitioned in 2019 to her current position as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care. Responsibilities include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and shared medical appointments, as well as working with endocrinology in the weight management clinic. Other duties include collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia as well as responding to drug information requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents and PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Lyman received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2018.

Christy Marchiando, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Marchiando obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska in 2016. Upon graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with an emphasis in ambulatory care at VA Central Iowa Healthcare System in Des Moines, Iowa. In 2017, Dr. Marchiando accepted a job as a clinical pharmacy specialist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System where she helped establish the Meds to Beds program, providing medication reconciliation and medication delivery and counseling services to discharging patients. Dr. Marchiando earned her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2018. In 2021, Dr. Marchiando transitioned into her current role as an internal medicine clinical pharmacy specialist. Her responsibilities include attending interdisciplinary team rounds, monitoring anticoagulation and vancomycin, completing admission and discharge medication reconciliations, and providing counseling at patient discharges. She serves as a preceptor for the PGY-1 Inpatient Internal Medicine Rotation as well as for PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy.

Steve Margevicius, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Home Based Primary Care

Dr. Margevicius attended The University of Toledo where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree in 2011 and Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2013. He then completed his PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice residency at the St. John Medical Center in Westlake, OH and joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2014. Dr. Margevicius is currently based out of Wade Park where he serves as the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Pharmacy Supervisor. In addition to providing administrative and clinical pharmacy services to HBPC, Dr. Margevicius is also involved as preceptor and research advisor to pharmacy students and PGY1/PGY2 residents. Dr. Margevicius remains involved with various local and national pharmacy organizations such as the Cleveland Society of Health System Pharmacists (CSHP) where he most recently served as Secretary in 2014.

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Amanda Mertz, PharmD, BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care in Women's Health

Dr. Mertz is originally from Northern New Jersey. She graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Connecticut in 2017. Upon graduation, she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOLS) and then continued her training as a PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Resident at the same site. After her residency graduation in June of 2019, Dr. Mertz joined the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care and Geriatrics. She served as an Ambulatory Care clinical pharmacy specialist, CLC pharmacist and HBPC pharmacist during her Tenure at the Tuscaloosa VA. Dr. Mertz received her Board Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy in 2019. She rejoined the VANEOLS clinical Pharmacy staff in August of 2021 as the Women's Health Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. Responsibilities include collaboration with Women's Health providers to evaluate and manage chronic disease states, such as diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and osteoporosis. Provides reviews of patient medications for potentially teratogenic or inappropriate medications in pregnancy and lactation. She additionally provides drug-information reviews and completes nonformulary consults for Women's Health medications.

James Moran, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Medicine

Dr. Moran received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from D'Youville College, School of Pharmacy in Buffalo, NY in 2016. After graduation, he completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights, Ohio. Following residency, Dr. Moran began his clinical practice as the Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator and critical care pharmacist at Lake West Medical Center, part of Lake Health in Willoughby, Ohio. In 2018, James transitioned to Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital as a clinical pharmacist with practice areas in medicine, neurology, and critical care. James joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System pharmacy team as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Emergency Medicine in 2021. His daily responsibilities focus heavily on interdisciplinary teamwork in the Emergency Department working closely with physicians, nursing and patients for pharmacotherapy recommendations and information. Additional responsibilities include daily antimicrobial stewardship, patient counseling, formulary management and medication histories. He is both ACLS and BLS certified.

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Jessica L. Mulhollan, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Substance Use Disorders

Dr. Mulhollan obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy in 2009. She then completed both an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and an ASHP accredited PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency at the VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo, NY, from 2009-2011. Following residency, Dr. Mulhollan worked as an inpatient psychiatric clinical pharmacist at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, PA, for 5 years. While there, she worked on the dual diagnosis unit and specialized in substance use disorders. She then took a position with Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights, OH, as an inpatient clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry in March 2016. She worked on both a general adult psychiatry unit and a geriatric psychiatry unit there for 3 years. In May 2019, she accepted a position as a clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry at the VANEOLS Canton Outpatient Clinic serving as a mental health prescriber providing comprehensive medication management with prescriptive authority, conducting assessments, placing consults/referrals to appropriate services, and ordering laboratory and other tests for her veterans. Additional responsibilities included completing non-formulary psychiatric drug requests and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. In January 2021, she accepted a position as the clinical pharmacy specialist in substance use disorders at the Wade Park campus. Her responsibilities include working with the ambulatory detox, opioid treatment program, and IOP teams, providing medication education groups for IOP patients, developing and implementing treatment protocols to include buprenorphine micro-induction, fentanyl test strips, and a syringe services program, and serves as the medication prescriber for IOP patients interested in medications for opioid and alcohol use disorder. In addition, she continues to complete non-formulary psychiatric drug requests and serve as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Mulhollan earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy (BCPP) in 2013. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists, having served on the Program Committee from 2013-2016, and currently serving on the BCPP Recertification Editorial Board since 2016.

Pamela Ong, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Ong received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and Pharmacy in 2010. Following graduation, she completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 pharmacy residency at Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital. She then accepted a full-time staff pharmacist position at Hillcrest Hospital, where she worked for three years before moving into her role of emergency medicine clinical pharmacist in 2014. In 2015, Dr. Ong took a position at Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital where she served as a clinical pharmacy specialist in Internal Medicine. While there, she served on various committees. Most notably, she served as the PGY1 pharmacy residency program director, the pharmacy chair for the Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee, and the lead pharmacist for the Investigational Drug Service. In May 2021, she accepted a position as a clinical pharmacy specialist in Internal Medicine at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. In her current role, she rounds with various internal medicine teams and provides pharmaceutical services which include therapeutic drug monitoring, drug information, patient education, and evaluation of non-formulary medication requests. She also serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students and residents. Dr. Ong earned her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2012 and is an active member of ASHP and ACCP.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs Faculty Biographies

Kristina Pascuzzi, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Pascuzzi graduated from The University of Toledo in May 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Science, then in May 2001 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited residency in Pharmacy Practice with emphasis in Ambulatory Care at VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, CT. She is currently working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Responsibilities include serving as a preceptor for the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency program, precepting PGY-1 pharmacy residents, and PharmD candidates from area Colleges of Pharmacy including Ohio Northern University, University of Toledo and The Ohio State University. Other duties consist of providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and shared medical appointments. This is accomplished by collaborating with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and by providing disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, as well as managing patients on anticoagulation therapy. Offering drug information, responding to therapeutic consults and non-formulary consults, as well as requests for patient education are also incorporated throughout the day.

Alexa Petrarca, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Petrarca earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2015 and subsequently completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOLS). She then served as a nursing unit-based pharmacist for the Cleveland Clinic and became a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist before returning to the VA in 2017 to implement a pharmacist-run "Meds-to-Beds" discharge service that included medication reconciliation, patient counseling, and bedside delivery of prescriptions. In the spring of 2021 Dr. Petrarca participated in the expansion of VANEOLS clinical pharmacy services to implement a robust Internal Medicine practice where she and her esteemed colleagues provide direct patient care throughout the entire acute care hospital stay. Daily duties include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participating in interdisciplinary patient care rounds, performing medication reconciliation at each transition of care (admission, transfer, and discharge), pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, providing discharge medication counseling, and more. She serves as a preceptor for an Internal Medicine rotation for both PGY-1 pharmacy residents and pharmacy students.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs
Faculty Biographies

Alia Poore, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Critical Care/Cardiology

Dr. Poore received a PharmD from the University of Toledo in 2008. She then completed a PGY-1 and PGY-2 Critical Care residency at MetroHealth in Cleveland from 2008-2010. Alia is currently board certified in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) and critical care (BCCCP). Alia worked at Mercy St Vincent Medical Center in Toledo as a Critical Care Specialist and RPD for the PGY-2 Critical Care residency from 2010-2012. Alia then worked at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital as a critical care specialist from 2012-2019. In 2019 Alia joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System pharmacy team as a Critical Care/Cardiology clinical specialist. Her daily responsibilities include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing admission/transfer/discharge medication reconciliation, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. Dr. Poore has also been an active member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine as well as the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Kelsey Rife, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Hepatology

Clinical Program Manager—Academic Affairs

Interim Director, PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Rife earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in May 2012. Upon graduation, she completed both her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residencies at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She earned her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2014. Dr. Rife is a Clinical Pharmacist in the Liver/Gastroenterology Clinic where her role has evolved from a focus on hepatitis C to broader support of these disease states. She has been highly involved in various research and quality improvement projects using Lean Six-Sigma methodology. As the Clinical Program Manager of Academic Affairs, she chairs the Residency Advisory Committee (RAC), supervises the pharmacy intern program, and coordinates preceptor development. Dr. Rife is a Clinical Instructor of Pharmacy Practice at Northeast Ohio Medical University, and serves as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. She remains active in both the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy (OCCP), holding various leadership positions including the 2019 President of OCCP and incoming 2021-2022 Chair for the ACCP GI/Liver/Nutrition PRN.

Jennifer Roche, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager

Dr. Roche graduated from the University of Maryland in May 2002 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She then completed an ASHP accredited specialty residency in psychiatric pharmacy practice at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She has been a board certified psychiatric pharmacy specialist since 2005. She currently works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry and Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She is also a member of the P&T committee, Clozapine Treatment Team, Disruptive Behavior Board and Pain Care Advisory Board.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs Faculty Biographies

Melissa A. Rock, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Dr. Rock obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree and minor in Chemistry in 2013 and her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree in 2015 from the University of Toledo. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Following residency, Dr. Rock worked as the first Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital until June 2018. She returned to work as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at the VA Northeast Ohio Akron Outpatient Clinic in August 2018. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management to community based outpatient clinics, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formularies, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Rock earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2017. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Mandy Roesel, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Roesel earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Duquesne University in 2008. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). She is currently an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VANEOHS and has been in this role since completion of her residency. She provides clinical pharmacy services for the inpatient internal medicine wards. Duties include collaborating with providers to evaluate drug therapy and monitoring, performing admission, transfer, and discharge medication reconciliation assessments, participating in teaching rounds and interdisciplinary team rounds, and ensuring appropriate medication use while inpatient and at transition of care including discharge medication counseling. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy residents and pharmacy students when rotating on internal medicine. Additionally, she is involved with patient safety activities including reviewing medication incidents submitted to the medical center and serving as a member of the Medication Management Committee. She is also a member of the Medication Use Evaluation committee and an ad-hoc member of the Residency Advisory Committee, serving as the chair of the interview subcommittee.

Sarah Rotman, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Rotman received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2011. She then completed a PGY1 Geriatrics-Track Pharmacy Residency at the North Florida/South Georgia VA Healthcare System. After residency, she stayed at the NF/SG VHS, first as a Surgery clinical pharmacy specialist, then transitioning to the Internal Medicine service. In 2019, Dr. Rotman left Florida to join the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System under the Meds to Beds program. In 2021, Dr. Rotman transitioned into her current role as an internal medicine clinical pharmacy specialist. Her responsibilities include attending interdisciplinary team rounds, monitoring anticoagulation and vancomycin, completing medication reconciliations upon transitions of care, and providing medication education to patients and to other members of the medical team. She enjoys serving as a preceptor for PharmD candidates and PGY-1 pharmacy residents.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs
Faculty Biographies

Katherine (Katie) Stypa (Salay), Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Director, PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Stypa earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2012. She then completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). She has been in her current position as an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist since completion of her residency, where she provides clinical pharmacy services for the patients on the internal medicine wards. Daily duties include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy for Veterans on the general medicine ward, participating in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing medication reconciliation on all transitions of care and pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy and PGY-2 ID and geriatrics residents during their months rotating on internal medicine, as well as pharmacy students. She assumed the role of PGY-1 Residency Program Director for the 2018-19 residency class. She is also involved in numerous other activities including serving as a residency mentor, a member of the VANEOHS's Pharmacy Residency Advisory Committee (RAC), and Pharmacy Service's representative on the Joint Commission Disease Specific Certification – Inpatient Diabetes group.

Lindsay Salsburg, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Salsburg received her Bachelor of Science in Integrated Life Sciences from Kent State University in 2004 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The Ohio States University in 2009. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 ambulatory care focused residency at Kaiser Permanente in Parma, Ohio. Immediately following residency, Dr Salsburg worked as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in ambulatory care at the Kaiser Permanente Chapel Hill and Fairlawn medical offices, which then became part of HealthSpan in October 2013. Dr Salsburg joined the VANEOHS as a PACT Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in August 2016 and currently holds this position. She practices full-time at the Akron CBOC with current responsibilities that include disease state management (with a focus on diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia), drug information, and non-formulary requests. Dr. Salsburg serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students and received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy (BCACP) in 2011.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs
Faculty Biographies

Sharanie V. Sims, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, BCIDP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases

Director, PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Sims received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences from The Ohio State University, Master of Public Health from George Washington University, and Doctor of Pharmacy from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She completed her PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System and PGY-2 Infectious Disease Pharmacy Residency at Cleveland Clinic. After completing her residencies, Dr. Sims joined the faculty at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) as an assistant professor and Infectious Diseases/Internal Medicine clinical pharmacist at Marymount Hospital. In 2010, she returned to the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, where she is currently the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Infectious Disease. She provides clinical pharmacy services to the Inpatient Infectious Disease Consult Service, Infectious Disease Outpatient Clinic, and the Home IV Antibiotic Therapy program. She serves as the PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency program director as well as preceptor for the PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents and students on infectious disease rotations. Dr. Sims is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy and Infectious Diseases Specialist and certification in Advanced Antimicrobial Stewardship from MAD-ID. Her interest include Gram-negative resistance, mycology, infections in immunocompromised hosts, and public health & healthcare disparities.

Mandy Weber, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Critical Care

Dr. Weber earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in 2009. After graduation, she completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). After residency, she stayed at VANEOHS as an Emergency Medicine clinical pharmacy specialist until 2018. Duties included medication reconciliation, patient and staff education, formulary management, emergency response, precepting and antimicrobial stewardship (through a pharmacy-driven ED culture follow up program she developed). In 2018, she transitioned to a Critical Care and Cardiology clinical pharmacy specialist position. Current duties include participating in rounds, medication reconciliation, drug monitoring, formulary management, emergency response and precepting pharmacy residents and students. She is a member of the CPR Committee, Parenteral Nutrition Committee and MICU and SICU Quality Improvement Committees.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs Faculty Biographies

Candice Wenzell, Pharm.D., BCOP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Wenzell received a PharmD from Ohio Northern University in 2009. She then went on to complete a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency at Cleveland Clinic followed by a PGY2 Hematology/Oncology residency at The Ohio State University. From 2011 to 2013, she worked at Cleveland Clinic as the inpatient leukemia pharmacist. She joined the VANEOS as the hematology/oncology clinical pharmacy specialist in 2013 and transitioned to an internal medicine clinical pharmacy specialist in 2018. Her daily responsibilities include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing medication reconciliation at transitions of care, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy, PGY-2 ID residents, and pharmacy students during their months rotating in internal medicine, as well as providing topic discussions for oncology rotations. She is also a mentor for residents. She coordinates the Comparative Effectiveness of Medical Interventions Committee which reviews high cost medications under consideration for use at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She is also a member of the Research committee. Dr. Wenzell is Board Certified in Oncology. She was awarded the “Preceptor of the Year Award” by the VANEOS pharmacy residency class of 2017. Dr. Wenzell is an active member of the Hematology Oncology Pharmacists Association (HOPA), serving as a member of the Publications Committee from 2013-2016 and 2018-2020, member of the Professional Development Committee from 2016-2017, and chair of the Resource Library Subcommittee (2017-2018).

Rachel Wilden, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Wilden received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Butler University in 2016. After graduation, she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY-2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Following residency, Dr. Wilden began at VANEOS as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Emergency Medicine prior to transitioning to her current position in Internal Medicine in 2021. Responsibilities include interdisciplinary rounds, medication reconciliation, pharmacokinetic monitoring, drug information, formulary management, and precepting resident and APPE students. Dr. Wilden’s practice interests include internal medicine, emergency medicine, transitions of care, and quality improvement.

Robert J. Willborn, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health PACT

Bob received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (2013), Master of Public Health (2015), and Doctor of Pharmacy (2016) from North Dakota State University. He subsequently completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System in Denver, Colorado and an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VANEOS in Cleveland, Ohio. Following residency, Bob has worked as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Mental Health within the VANEOS’s community-based outpatient clinics, located in Sandusky and Lorain. His responsibilities include providing mental health medication management, drug therapy collaboration and consultation with other mental health providers, addressing outpatient drug information requests, completing non-formulary drug requests, and serving as a preceptor. Bob earned his Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2017 and his Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy in 2018.