

Grand Island VA Programs – PGY1 and PGY2

Katelynd Routledge – Grand Island PGY1 Resident

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- **Hometown:** Nampa, Idaho
- **College:**
 - Undergraduate: Northwest Nazarene University
 - COP: Midwestern University - Glendale
- **Why the VA:** I volunteered and did two APPE rotations in the VA system. The interprofessional role pharmacists have as integral members of the healthcare team is unmatched. Care is not siloed in the VA, and I loved interacting with all different kinds of healthcare professionals daily. I knew that being a VA resident would help me grow from a student to a confident new practitioner in a supportive learning environment. Residents practice at the top of their license and get many opportunities to be exposed to specialties in pharmacy.
- **Favorite Thing about GIVA that I didn't know before the match:** The people! Everyone here invests in your growth, individual career interests, and overall wellness. It's also been fun to be a part of the NWI system and to network with the Omaha and Lincoln VA locations.
- **Residency Project:** Evaluation of Patients Prescribed Zolpidem for Insomnia Across VA NWIHCS
- **Career Interests:** Ambulatory care, mental health and implementing new pharmacy services within the VA. I don't see myself working anywhere else and plan to stay within the VA after residency.
- **What I enjoy about Grand Island:** It has a rural small town feel with lots of greenery while still being close to restaurants and shopping. GI lets you experience all four seasons, the sunsets are beautiful, and if you want to sightsee, Omaha or Lincoln are a day trip away.



Amelia Koster – Grand Island PGY1 Resident

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- **Hometown:** St. Ansgar, Iowa
- **College:**
 - Undergraduate: South Dakota State University
 - COP: South Dakota State University
- **Why the VA:** The VA allows pharmacists to practice at the top of their license while working in an interdisciplinary team to provide the best care for our Veterans. As a pharmacy student searching for residencies, I knew the VA would provide me with in-depth learning experiences and opportunities in ambulatory care, as pharmacists at the VA function as mid-level practice providers making their own clinical decisions as they manage chronic disease states within their scope of practice.
- **Favorite thing about GIVA that I didn't know before the match:** The pharmacists and technicians here at the GIVA are amazing to working with. From the first day, they were so welcoming and created a comfortable environment for learning. Everyone in the pharmacy is always willing to help you out when training and take the time to answer any questions you have. The RPD and preceptors here are invested in your learning experiences and want to teach you and help you grow. They take the time to get to know you and about your life outside of the pharmacy. Overall, it's an encouraging and supportive atmosphere.
- **Residency Project:** Expansion of pharmacist clinical services through implementation of a pharmacist managed endocrine specialty hub in a Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- **Career interests:** I enjoy ambulatory care and managing chronic disease states in my areas of interest such as diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and heart failure. My long-term goal is to be a board-certified ambulatory care pharmacist and serve as a preceptor for pharmacy students.
- **What I enjoy about Grand Island:** I enjoy the small town feel of Grand Island and the multitude of amenities. I love trying all the local restaurants and exploring different walking paths in the area.



Omaha VA Program – PGY1 Residents

Christopher Elbracht

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I was raised in Gretna, Nebraska right outside of Omaha. I completed my pre-pharmacy coursework at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, NE where I played NAIA and NCAA Division III college soccer. I attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy to earn my Doctorate of Pharmacy. After completing my residency VA, I hope to pursue a career as a clinical pharmacist in internal medicine and obtain board certification. In my free time I enjoy reading (Game of Thrones and Tolkien), coaching and playing soccer (just can't give it up), making mead (honey-wine), and trying out local breweries with my wife Lauren.



Taylor Thiele

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Dr. Thiele is originally from the rural community of Aurora, Nebraska. She played collegiate volleyball and received her Bachelor of Science degree from Bradley University which is in Peoria, Illinois. She moved back to Nebraska to attend pharmacy school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy in 2022. Her interests are in chronic disease state management, and after her PGY1 residency year at the Omaha VA, she plans to pursue a career in ambulatory care pharmacy. She is looking forward to precepting pharmacy students and plans to pursue board certification. In her free time, she enjoys baking, going on walks, playing tennis, traveling, and spending time with her family.



Jacquelyn Thomsen

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Dr. Thomsen was born in Ames, IA and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. She completed her pre-pharmacy coursework and earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. After completion of residency at the Omaha VA, she plans to pursue a career as a clinical pharmacist and obtain board certification. Some of her current interest areas include ambulatory care, internal medicine, and infectious diseases. In her free time she enjoys traveling, golfing, cheering on the Nebraska Cornhuskers, and spending time with family and friends.



Lauren Zimmerman

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Dr. Zimmerman was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. She completed a 2+4 pharmacy program through Drake University in Des Moines, IA. There she also completed her Masters in Business Administration. After completing her residency at the Omaha VA, she will either pursue a PGY-2 or a clinical pharmacy position. Her areas of interest are mental health, internal medicine and ambulatory care. In her free time she takes care of her many houseplants, enjoys time at the ceramics studio, and cooking with her family. When it is nice out you can find her paddle boarding, or hiking.



Lincoln VA Program – PGY1 Residents



Jennifer Kathol

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Dr. Kathol is originally from Bow Valley, NE. She moved to Omaha, NE, and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from UNO in 2017. In May she graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center as a Doctor of Pharmacy. Her professional interests include working with veterans to address and improve mental health disorders, substance use disorder, and HIV. Her hobbies include kayaking, hiking, and spending time with her fiancé Jon and her family.



Lien Pham

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Dr. Pham was born in Vietnam, and her family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska when she was 13 years old. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She then went on to attend Creighton University where she earned a Doctor of Pharmacy. After completion of residency at the Lincoln VA, she plans to either pursue a PGY2 residency in ambulatory care or a career as a clinical pharmacist. In her free time she enjoys listening to audio books, building miniature doll houses, and spending time with her husband, Levi and her 3 Shiba inu, Kuro, Koda and Kenzo.