



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health
Administration

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

Pharmacy Residency Program (PGY1)

Accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists since 1984

Meet the SAVAHCS Pharmacy Team!

Chief, Pharmacy Service

Kristina De Los Santos, PharmD, BCPS is the Chief, Pharmacy Service and has worked at SAVAHCS since graduating from the University of Arizona with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1999. She was an inpatient pharmacist for one year and then completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at SAVAHCS in 2001. She worked in various settings at SAVAHCS after completing residency training and assisted with oversight of residency program. In 2006 she became the Residency Program Director, Formulary Manager and eventually supervisor of the clinical pharmacists in ambulatory care. In 2012 she became the Chief, Pharmacy Service. Kristina was the founding leader of the Health Systems Academy of the Arizona Pharmacy Association in addition to a variety of other leadership positions. She has served on the Council on Pharmacy Practice, Committee on Nominations, Commission on Credentialing, House of Delegates, and as a guest surveyor for residency surveys for the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists. She has served the Tucson community volunteering with the Junior League of Tucson and more recently her daughter's school. Kristina enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with her daughter.

Associate Chief, Clinical and Education Pharmacy Service

Jessica Grimes, PharmD is the Associate Chief of Pharmacy, Ambulatory Clinical Services and Education. Jessica graduated from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2008 and completed her PGY1 residency at SAVAHCS in 2009. She was the PACT pharmacist at the Yuma Community Based Outpatient Clinic from 2009 until April of 2014, when she moved on to a front-line supervisor position (supervising the PACT pharmacists and Home Based Primary Care pharmacists). In 2022, she started in her current role, which oversees the ambulatory clinical services (including primary care and specialty), the formulary manager, and the education program.

Residency Advisory Board (RAB) Members

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director:

Stephanie Davis, PharmD, BCACP is the pharmacy education program manager for pharmacy service. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Arizona and completed a Pharmacy Residency at the Oregon Health Sciences University. After residency she landed at the Salt Lake City VA where she worked as an acute care pharmacist for the medicine teams, served as the residency coordinator, and developed her joy for hiking. She headed back to a warmer climate in 2000 by transferring to SAVAHCS. She established the role of a pharmacist in the Medical Subspecialty Clinic working in the clinic for 11 years. She transitioned to the administrative side of pharmacy initially as front-line supervisor at SAVAHCS in 2011 while maintaining a clinical practice with the Hepatitis C clinic and has served in several other administrative pharmacy roles. She became a member of the SAVAHCS residency program when it established in 2002 and became the RPD the Spring of 2013. She enjoys hiking, baking for the residents, being a guinea pig mom, and when too toasty to hike, tackle jigsaw puzzles.

PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency Program Director:

Megan Banaszynski, PharmD, BCOP has been a clinical hematology/oncology pharmacist at SAVAHCS since 2015 and the PGY-2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency Director since 2018. She completed her PGY-1 pharmacy residency as well as her PGY-2 oncology pharmacy residency at SAVAHCS. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin pharmacy school in 2013. She is a member of ASHP, HOPA and AHAVO. Megan also serves on the Residency Advisory Board. She precepts pharmacy students and residents for the elective in oncology. In her spare time, Megan enjoys traveling, golfing and spending time with her two frenchies.

[Link to PGY2 Preceptors](#)

RAB members:

Willy Edwards, PharmD, BCPS is an Inpatient Pharmacy Supervisor at SAVAHCS. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Montana in 2007 and completed a PGY1 Ambulatory Care Focused Residency at the Phoenix VA in 2008. Directly after this experience, he joined the SAVAHCS pharmacy team and established a clinical pharmacy position in the Emergency Department where he served in that role for 15 years. Willy serves on the Residency

Advisory Board. He is also an ACLS instructor, and member of various committees at SAVAHCS. In his free time, Willy enjoys playing baseball, weightlifting, going to various sporting events, and spending time with his family.

Stephanie Lee, PharmD, BCPP, BCPS is a clinical pharmacy practitioner for the inpatient psychiatry and detoxification teams. She received her PharmD from the University of Arizona in 2015. Following her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency training at SAVAHCS, she went on to complete a PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System in Loma Linda, CA. Stephanie was then hired on to her current position in 2017. Her clinical interests include PTSD and substance use disorders, and she enjoys working closely with other members of the healthcare team on VA-wide campaigns such as the Psychotropic Drug Safety Initiative (PDSI) and Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND). Outside of work, she likes to spend her time playing board games and garment sewing.

Jon Merchen, PharmD, BCPS is currently a critical care clinical pharmacy practitioner at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS) in Tucson. He completed a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at SAVAHCS in 2006-2007. Post residency, Jon has worked at SAVAHCS as an inpatient general staffing pharmacist, with the acute care internal medicine service, and now with the medical and surgical critical care teams since 2016. Jon became a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist in 2008. While at SAVAHCS, he has served as a member of several committees including Anticoagulation, Antimicrobial Stewardship, Nutrition Support, Critical Care, and Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees. He is an active member of the Arizona Pharmacy Association (AzPA) where he has served in a variety of roles.

Douglas Popham, BS Pharm, BCACP joined SAVAHCS in 1999 and currently practices as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner in the Ocotillo clinic. He serves as a preceptor and clinical instructor in Pharmacy Practice and Science Doctor of Pharmacy Clerkship Program, with the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy (SAVAHCS) and as a preceptor for the SAVAHCS Pharmacy Practice Residency Program. He is also co-editor of the patient newsletter. Mr. Popham graduated from the University of Kansas College of Pharmacy with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1993. He completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at SAVAHCS in 1998. His professional interests include hypertension, lipid management, diabetes and anticoagulation. His personal interests include cycling, running, hiking and spending time with his family.

PGY1 Required Learning Experience Preceptors

Medicine Acute Care:

Jay (Jun Ho) Choi, PharmD is an inpatient clinical pharmacy specialist on internal medicine at SAVAHCS. Jay received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Emory University (Atlanta, GA) in 2017, and received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy in 2021. He completed a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at VA Long Beach Healthcare System of California from 2021 - 2022. Post residency, he accepted his current position in internal medicine setting at SAVAHCS. Outside of pharmacy, he enjoys playing guitar, singing, watching soccer, traveling, playing with his two dogs (Tofu and Mory) and trying out different restaurants with his wife.



Critical Care:

Jon Merchen, PharmD, BCPS ([see above in RAB section](#))

Patricia Ritz, PharmD, BCPS is currently an inpatient clinical pharmacist on the critical care and surgery teams at SAVAHCS. Patricia received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2009 and completed a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at the Phoenix VA HealthCare System from 2009 – 2010. Post residency, she worked as an inpatient/clinical staff pharmacist for the Carondelet Health Care System for a few years. She has been employed at SAVAHCS since 2014 and worked as an internal medicine clinical pharmacist from 2015 to 2023. This year, she transitioned to critical care and surgery services. Patricia’s primary responsibilities include rounding daily with the critical care and surgery teams and precepting both 4th year pharmacy students from the University of Arizona and PGY1 pharmacy residents. Patty is the co-chair for the Anticoagulation Subcommittee. Her personal interests include running, hiking, attending University of Arizona sporting events and spending time with her family.

Primary Care:



Elizabeth Dooling, PharmD is a clinical pharmacist in one of the ambulatory care clinics at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS). She graduated from Benedictine University in Lisle IL, where she obtained her Bachelor's in Biology in 2001. She went on to complete her Doctor of Pharmacy at Midwestern University in Glendale, AZ in 2005. Following graduation, she completed a one year General Pharmacy Practice Residency at SAVAHCS in 2006. She has worked in several different departments within the SAVAHCS pharmacy including inpatient pharmacy, the Pharmacy Phone Center and is currently practicing part time in the Saguaro Ambulatory Care Clinic. In 2010, she received her certification as a registered immunizer.

Joan Edwards, PharmD, BCACP is an ambulatory care clinical pharmacy practitioner currently practicing with Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) in the Ocotillo Primary Care clinic. She serves as a preceptor for longitudinal clinic and ambulatory care rotations. Joan received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Montana in 2007. She completed her Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) in June 2008 and became a Board-Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP) in 2012. In her free time, Joan enjoys running, watching sporting events, and spending time with her family.

Elizabeth Jing, PharmD received her pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona in 2016. She completed her PGY-1 at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) and will be working as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner in the Community Based Outpatients as well as several other clinics, such as Anticoagulation Clinic, in SAVAHCS. In the past, Elizabeth has worked as an outpatient pharmacist in SAVAHCS and did multiple internships in retail pharmacies. In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys sewing, cooking, painting, running, and hanging out with her family.

Rick Lasica, PharmD is the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) clinical pharmacist practitioner for the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Sierra Vista, AZ. He received his BS in Nutritional Sciences and PharmD from The University of Arizona and completed his PGY-1 residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS). He is a co-preceptor with Eric VanHoesen for the primary care learning experience and he also coordinates the Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) longitudinal learning experience. He enjoys helping his patients live healthier lives and precepting residents and students. He is an active member of his state's pharmacy association. Outside of his professional life he enjoys traveling, hiking, camping, rock climbing, running, drinking craft beer, and watching U of A sports (bear down!). Be sure to ask Rick about joining the kickball team he puts together each year

Steven Menachof, PharmD is a clinical pharmacist in the Green Valley, Safford, and Geriatrics ambulatory care clinics. He completed his PGY-1 residency here at SAVAHCS in 2019. He then worked as a pharmacist and preceptor in the outpatient pharmacy for three years before starting his current role. In a former life, Steven was a native Chicagoan and dog-person until his wife got a job with the University of Arizona and adopted 2 cats. When not being a pharmacist, Steven loves to watch baseball (Cubbies all the way) and football (Bear Down...Chicago Bears), eat delicious food, ride his bike, hike, and listen to vinyl records.

Nikita Patel, PharmD, BCPS is a clinical pharmacist in one of the ambulatory care clinics at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS). She received her PharmD from the Western University of Health Science in 2014 and completed a PGY-1 pharmacy residency at the VA Central California Health Care System in 2015. She then worked as a PACT pharmacist at the VA Central California Health Care System before joining SAVAHCS in 2017. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and playing with her daughter.

Kristen Pellingra, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP is a PACT (ambulatory care) pharmacist at SAVAHCS. She graduated from Gonzaga University with a BS in Chemistry, received her PharmD from Washington State University in 2006 and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at SAVAHCS in 2007. She works out of the Casa Grande CBOC. She enjoys working with residents, especially doing research, as she is a member of the Research and Development Committee. She is an active member of state and national pharmacy associations. When she is not at work, she likes to be outside with friends and family (proud Aunt).

Douglas Popham, BS Pharm, BCACP ([see above in RAB section](#))

Danielle Rhine, PharmD is an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist working with the Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) in the Ocotillo primary care clinic. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona in 2014 and completed her PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency in 2015 at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS). She has previous experience in inpatient pharmacy and various clinics including women's health, transgender health and mental health primary care prior to her work in the Ocotillo clinic.

Claire Strickland, PharmD is a PACT pharmacist in the Saguaro primary care clinic. Claire graduated from the University of Arizona in 2008 and completed her PGY1 residency here at SAVAHCS. Following her residency, Claire enjoyed working as an inpatient pharmacist at SAVAHCS for four years. Claire has always had an interest in diabetes management and is excited to have the chance to work on a PACT team. When Claire is not practicing pharmacy, she enjoys her involvement with the Youth program at her church, cooking, reading and spending time with family.

Cathy Sweet, PharmD is an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist and currently works in Northwest Tucson VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona in 2006. The following year she completed a PGY1 residency at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS). She has been working in ambulatory care since joining SAVAHCS in July 2007. Cathy serves as a preceptor for continuity clinic and ambulatory care rotations.

Angela Toy, PharmD, BCPS is an ambulatory care pharmacist practicing part time at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS). She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1999. She then completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the SAVAHCS in 2000. She left to work at the Arizona University Medical Center for one year, and then returned to the VA to work in ambulatory care. Dr. Toy precepts pharmacy residents and students in ambulatory care. Her interests include spending time with family, travelling, and baking.

Eric Van Hoesen, PharmD was born and raised in Tucson. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy from The University of Arizona in 2002. After completion of a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS), he was hired as a Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner in one of the Primary Care clinics at SAVAHCS which was also home to Pulmonary and Rheumatology Clinics. He currently practices as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner at the Southeast Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Southeast Tucson.



Pharmacy Operations:

Tyler Stuntz, PharmD currently works at SAVAHCS as an inpatient clinical pharmacist and per diem at a local community hospital. Tyler graduated from the University of Arizona in 2016 and completed his PGY1 residency here at SAVAHCS in 2017. Aside from inpatient practice, Tyler has work experience in pharmacology/toxicology research, compounding pharmacy, and outpatient pharmacy settings. When Tyler is not practicing pharmacy, he enjoys cycling, hiking, and working on cars.

Weekend Staffing (longitudinal experience):

Paul Davis, PharmD, BCPS is currently an inpatient and emergency medicine clinical pharmacy practitioner and serves as one of the main preceptors for the weekend staffing and longitudinal inpatient anticoagulation experiences. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Idaho State in 2020. He completed a PGY1 residency at SAVAHCS in 2021 and became a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) in 2022. His current areas of interest include Emergency Medicine and Critical Care Medicine. His hobbies outside of pharmacy include spending time with his dog Sydney, rock climbing, backpacking and canyoneering.

Tyler Stuntz, PharmD ([see above in Pharmacy Operations](#))

Medication Use Evaluation:

Sharon Thomas, PharmD, BCPS is the Pharmacy Formulary Program Manager at SAVAHCS. She obtained her PharmD from the University of Texas at Austin in 2017 and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Methodist Dallas Medical Center. She went on to complete a PGY2 residency in Pharmacy Outcomes and Healthcare Analytics at the VA VISN 17 Pharmacy Benefits Management Office in Central Texas before coming to SAVAHCS. Sharon is a preceptor for the longitudinal MUE and formulary management rotations. She now works remotely from Texas and

precepts residents virtually. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, trying new food, and spending time with friends and family.

PGY 1 Elective Learning Experience Preceptors



Administrative:

Jessica Grimes, PharmD

[see above in Associate Chief](#)

Jenny Walters, PharmD is the Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor. Prior to accepting her new supervisor position in 07/2023, Jenny was a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) pharmacist for 2 Community Based Outpatient Clinics for 7 years. She played collegiate golf at the College of Charleston and graduated in 2003 with a BS in Elementary Education. After teaching 2nd grade for one year, she had a change of heart and decided to pursue a career in pharmacy. She received her PharmD from the Medical University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy in Charleston, SC and completed a PGY1 residency at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, SC. Jenny joined the SAVAHCS team in July 2013. In her spare time, Jenny enjoys spending time with her family, exercising, and watching college sports (especially the South Carolina Gamecocks football team)!

Centralized Anticoagulation:

Ashley Knickerbocker-Manns, PharmD is a clinical pharmacy practitioner in the centralized anti-coagulation clinic at SAVAHCS. Ashley received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in May 2009 from the University of Arizona. She completed her PGY1 pharmacy practice residency in June 2010. The residency was a dual program at the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System and University of Southern California School of pharmacy. Her residency was a general practice residency at the VA WLA, and she was an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the USC School of Pharmacy and led case

discussions and lectured to the pharmacy students at USC. She enjoys many aspects of ambulatory care practice, and precepting students. In her spare time, she likes to spend time with her husband and three daughters.

Emergency Medicine

Dan Le, PharmD, BCPS is one of our Emergency Department Pharmacist and serves as one of the main preceptors for the Emergency Medicine elective. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Arizona (BEARDOWN) in 2011 and completed a PGY1 residency at SAVAHCS in 2012. His current areas of interest are in Emergency Medicine, Critical Care Medicine and Infectious Disease. Dan serves on the anti-microbial stewardship committee and stroke committee. He is a proponent in free open access medical education and an avid participant in pharmaceutical teachings using new technological platforms. Dan also serves as a preceptor for research projects and continuing education presentations. His hobbies outside of pharmacy include spending time outdoors with his wife and dogs, Brazilian jiu-jitsu and golfing.

Geriatrics, Home Based Primary Care (HBPC):

Nicholas Christensen, PharmD joined the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System in 1994. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1994 and a BS in education in 1988 from the University of Arizona. He completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at SAVAHCS in June 1995. Currently he is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist working with the Home Based Primary Care Team. He has been a Clinical Instructor in Pharmacy Practice at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy since 1996. His professional interests include pain management and Geriatrics.

Stephanie Jacobs, PharmD is a clinical pharmacist working with the Home Based Primary Care Team. She graduated from North Dakota State University in 2005 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency in 2006 at SAVAHCS and joined the pharmacy department after the residency. She helps to coordinate the monitoring of adverse drug reactions for SAVAHCS and precepts the residents for the adverse drug reaction quarterly reports.

Jean Popham, PharmD joined SAVAHCS in 1995 and is a Clinical Pharmacist in the Home Based Primary Care, focusing on geriatric care of homebound Veterans. She serves as the editor for the Oncology Patient Newsletter and sits on the Medication Management Committee. Mrs. Popham graduated from the University of Kansas in 1994 and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at SAVAHCS in 1995. She was named Outstanding Pharmacist of the Year by the Arizona Pharmacist Association in 1999. Her personal interests include visiting National Parks, hiking and volunteering with National Charity League of Tucson.

Elaine Truong, PharmD is a clinical pharmacy practitioner for the home-based primary care (HBPC) team. She received her PharmD from the University of Arizona in 2015 and completed her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency training at SAVAHCS in 2016. After residency, Elaine was hired on at SAVCAHCS as an inpatient pharmacist, then moved to the outpatient pharmacy setting, and to her current position in 2023. She enjoys working closely with her interdisciplinary team serving patients that are home bound. In her free time, Elaine enjoys traveling, trying new foods, and creating art.

Geriatrics, Inpatient:

Daniela Cardy, PharmD is a clinical pharmacist in the subacute medicine unit in building 60. She has been at SAVAHCS since 1998. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in nutritional science, and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed her PGY1 residency at the SAVAHCS in 1999 and went on to do a fellowship. That was cut short when offered a position in the subacute medical unit in building 60. She worked as a full-time clinical pharmacist for 3 years, then moved to the inpatient pharmacy as a part-time staff pharmacist for 4 years while expanding her family. Geriatrics has always been her passion, and she went back to the subacute unit as a part-time clinical pharmacist. She precepts the U of A students that come through. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, photography, hiking and reading.

Chadwick Mellen, PharmD is a clinical pharmacist in the subacute medicine unit in building 60. Chadwick obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2008. He then completed a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at SAVAHCS from 2008 to 2009. Post residency, he worked as an inpatient/outpatient pharmacist at NAVAHCS located in Prescott, AZ. In 2011, he relocated to the Flagstaff CBOC of NAVAHCS as an ambulatory care pharmacist. He is proud of his Rookie Preceptor of the Year honor received from the U of A pharmacy in 2016. In the winter of 2017, he accepted a clinical position in internal medicine at the SAVAHCS. Responsibilities include rounding with the internal medicine team and precepting both pharmacy students and residents. Chadwick is a proud father of 3 boys and one little girl. Hobbies include camping, hiking, movies, and sports.

Julie Steiner, PharmD, BCGP is a clinical pharmacist for the interim care units, geri-psychiatry unit and Southwest Blind Rehabilitation Center. She has been at the SAVAHCS since 1991. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 1991

with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed her PGY1 residency at the SAVAHCS in 1992. She is board certified in Geriatric Pharmacy (BCGP).

Infectious Disease:

Marshall Renna, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP is the Infectious Diseases/Antimicrobial Stewardship pharmacist at SAVAHCS. He graduated from the University of Montana with his Doctor of Pharmacy in 2018. He completed his PGY1 pharmacy residency at SAVAHCS, and his PGY2 in Infectious Diseases at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, NV. He is a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists. He is the co-chair of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee and precepts PGY1 residents for the elective in infectious diseases. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, camping, and fishing.

Pharmacy Informatics:

Brandon LaMarr, PharmD, BCPS currently works as the Pharmacy Informatics/QA manager. He received a BA in Biology from the University of Utah in 2005 and his Pharm.D. from the University of Colorado in 2009. He completed a PGY1 residency at SAVAHCS in 2010. He worked as an inpatient pharmacist for several years following residency. Outside of work, Brandon enjoys consuming print and electronic media, baked dessert items and wholesome family recreation.

Medical Subspecialty (MSS):

Eric Ly, PharmD is a clinical pharmacy practitioner who covers the ambulatory care and anticoagulation clinics. He graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in nutritional sciences in 2011 and a PharmD in 2016. After graduation he went on to complete a PGY-1 residency here at SAVAHCS. He joined the team of outpatient pharmacists here at SAVAHCS after residency. Outside of pharmacy, he enjoys weightlifting, cycling, football, video games and being a dad.

Stephanie Nguyen, PharmD, BCPS is an ambulatory care clinical pharmacy practitioner for the Medical Subspecialties Clinic. A University of Arizona Wildcat through and through, she graduated in 2010 with a BS in Microbiology and a BA in Spanish & Portuguese, and then in 2015 with her PharmD from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. After completing her PGY-1 residency at SAVAHCS, Stephanie worked as an inpatient pharmacist and an ambulatory care float pharmacist before transitioning to her current position in 2019. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, reading, cooking, and trying new foods.

Ashley Tritz, PharmD, BCPS graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy in 2008. She completed her general Pharmacy Practice Residency at SAVAHCS in 2009. Following her residency, Ashley was an inpatient clinical pharmacist for five years before transitioning into a clinical ambulatory care position. She currently works in the medical subspecialties clinic and has a special interest in cardiology. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, golfing, traveling, and spending time with family.

Mental Health:

Allison Beatty, PharmD, BCPP is a clinical pharmacy practitioner for the outpatient Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) team, serving veterans at Main Campus. Dr. Beatty graduated in 2014 from University of Arizona. She completed her PGY-1 residency with the University of Utah Hospital and Clinics, and then completed a PGY-2 in mental health with the Salt Lake City VA. Dr. Beatty then served as a Professor of Pharmacy Practice with a clinical site on the inpatient psychiatry unit at the SLC VA from 2016-2021, prior to returning to the desert in Fall of 2021. She is an active committee member with CPNP and loves to be outdoors, cook, and tries all of the amazing food Tucson has to offer.

Meghan Dolly, BCPS, BCACP, is a Pain clinical pharmacy practitioner working in the primary care setting. She received her PharmD to Jefferson College of Pharmacy in 2018. She completed her PGY-1 at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin, GA and her PGY-2 in Ambulatory Care at the Columbia VA Health Care System. She became board certified in Pharmacotherapy in 2019 and in Ambulatory Care in 2021. In her free time she likes to spend time with her family and spend time outside.

Stephanie Lee, PharmD, BCPP, BCPS ([see above in RAB section](#))

Joy Gamber, PharmD, BCPP practices as a clinical pharmacy practitioner (CPP) for the outpatient Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) team. She serves veterans at the Tucson main campus and the Sierra Vista and Safford Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). Dr. Gamber graduated in 2013 from The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. She completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, TX, followed by a PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency with Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, TX. Dr. Gamber practiced as an outpatient MH CPP within a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) at the Dallas VA Medical Center from 2015 to 2020. She briefly served as a clinical pharmacist consultant for a

telepharmacy startup called Cureatr prior to joining SAVAHCS in early 2021 as a fully remote telepharmacist. She remains a member of CPNP, and in her free time enjoys being outdoors and active.

Catherine Smith, PharmD, BCPS is a clinical pharmacy practitioner with a passion for ambulatory care and mental health. She works on the primary care mental health integration (PC-MHI) service with several community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs). She is also the Ambulatory Care/PACT pharmacist for the Agave and H-PACT Teams. She received her PharmD from the University of New Mexico in 2019. Following her Ambulatory Care focused PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency training at the Boise VA in Boise, Idaho; she stayed on to complete a PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the Boise VA. Catherine joined SAVAHCS in 2023. Her clinical interests include working at the intersection of primary care and outpatient mental health, geriatrics and geriatric mental health, deprescribing and quality improvement. She has enjoyed working with residents on the patient newsletter as a co-editor. Outside of work, she likes to spend her time backpacking, mountain biking and reading. Sometimes when the mood grabs her, she bakes sourdough bread.

Meet the Oncology PGY2 Pharmacy Preceptors:

Megan Banaszynski, PharmD, BCOP ([see above under PGY2 RPD](#))

Brian Do, PharmD, BCOP is a clinical pharmacy specialist for hematology/oncology and is one of the main preceptors for the PGY2 oncology residency. He completed his PGY1 general pharmacy practice and PGY2 oncology residency training at SAVAHCS. Following residency, he became the clinical oncology pharmacy specialist for melanoma, sarcoma, genitourinary malignancies, and neuro-oncology at the University of Arizona Cancer Center. He rejoined the SAVAHCS pharmacy team as the clinical hematology/oncology pharmacist in 2018. He is a member of ASHP, HOPA, and AVAHO and serves as a preceptor for students and residents of the oncology elective. Brian is also involved in the oncology work group for the Electronic Health Record Modernization initiative. He enjoys good food, great movies, and spending time with his family. He is also an avid fan of the Arizona Wildcats (Bear Down!).

Jamie Chichester, PharmD, BCPS joined SAVAHCS pharmacy in 2013 and has been the Surgery Clinic Pharmacist since 2015. After trying several different careers including teacher, secretary, and flight attendant, Jamie graduated from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 2012 and completed her PGY-1 pharmacy residency at Lebanon VA Medical Center in rural Pennsylvania. She obtained a Bachelors of Science in Education at Rockford University in 2002. She precepts IPPE students and the PGY-2 Pharmacy Oncology resident for the Oncology Surgery rotation. Gardening became her passion during the COVID-19 pandemic because she couldn't travel, and all her free time is spent with her adorable two little boys.

Mark C. Geraci, Pharm.D., BCOP is a National PBM Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager and a virtual preceptor for PGY-2 oncology residents. He completed a specialty oncology residency followed by clinical pharmacy positions with several academic medical centers and lecturing in the oncology unit of an integrated doctor of pharmacy program. He also precepted Doctor of Pharmacy students, PGY-1 pharmacy residents and a PGY-2 oncology resident before joining the VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services in 2002. Her serves on the VA Tobacco Cessation Technical Advisory Group, is a consultant to the VA Oncology Field Advisory Committee, and a consultant to the VA National Precision Oncology Program. He is a member of ASHP, HOPA and AVAHO and has served on and led committees as part of HOPA.

Bernadette (Berni) Heron, B.S. Pharm., Pharm.D., BCOP is a National PBM Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager that specializes in hematology/oncology for VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Formulary Management Services. Berni conducts clinical reviews and develops guidance documents for therapies that impact the Veteran cancer population. These documents provide information to facilitate national formulary decisions and assist field practitioners. Berni is an active member of the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) and served as past-chair of the Standards Committee. She serves on the Board of the Association of VA Hematology/Oncology (AVAHO) and is also a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Berni is interested in drug safety among Veterans and their families, expanding roles of hem/onc pharmacists and value in cancer care. In her spare time, she like to merge fitness with fundraising.

Brandon LaMarr, PharmD, BCPS currently works as the Pharmacy Informatics/QA manager and serves as the preceptor for the Informatics Elective [see above under Pharmacy Informatics](#)

Stephanie Lee, PharmD, BCPP, BCPS is the primary preceptor for the Provider Newsletter experience [see above in RAB section](#)

Mahendra Patel, PharmD, BCPS is an ambulatory care clinical pharmacy practitioner in the Women's Health, Transgender & Gender Diverse, Geriatrics, and Ironwood Primary Care clinics. He completed a pharmacy practice residency in 2003 at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) and joined the pharmacy department the following year. He has completed the basic tobacco intervention skills program and tobacco dependence treatment program from the University of Arizona. He serves as the tobacco cessation lead clinician for SAVAHCS. Additionally, he is also an active member on the National VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System Advisory Committee, facility multidisciplinary transgender team and national VA transgender interfacility e-consult team. Mahendra has been serving as a preceptor for SAVAHCS' pharmacy practice residency programs (PGY1 & PGY2) since 2003 and is a Clinical Instructor in Pharmacy Practice and Science at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy since 2006. He enjoys spending countless hours with family, being an avid fan of basketball and football, coaching baseball/softball, traveling, hiking and working out.

Jean Popham, PharmD serves as the main preceptor for the Oncology Pharmacy Patient newsletter [see above under Geriatrics, Home Based Primary Care](#)

Sharon Thomas, PharmD, BCPS is the Formulary Manager and serves as the main preceptor for the Medication Use Evaluation preceptor [see above under Medication Use Evaluation](#)

Ryan M. Young, PharmD, BCPS currently serves as the Inpatient Pharmacy Compounding Sterile Products Supervisor. He previously served as the inpatient pharmacy program manager for 3 years and then practiced as an inpatient ICU/surgical and infectious disease care pharmacist and still serves as a preceptor to pharmacy residents and students. He graduated from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2002 and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in 2003. He became a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist in 2004. In 2005-2006 Ryan was called to active military duty and worked as a clinical pharmacy specialist for formulary management in the United States military. His interests include infectious diseases, acute pain management and critical care pharmacotherapy. He is a member of ASHP.