

Columbia VA Health Care System
Columbia, SC

2023-24 Pharmacy Residents



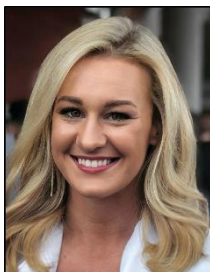
PGY1 Residents



Stephen Burns, PharmD: I grew up in Myrtle Beach and Conway, SC before moving to Loris, SC just prior to my undergraduate studies. I then moved to Columbia where I graduated from the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. My clinical interests are in oncology and infectious disease. As far as hobbies go, I enjoy reading, recreational archery, video games, movies, board and card games, lifting weights, among other things. When I am not working, as the oldest of seven, you will most likely find me with my siblings and family affectionately known as "The Burns Clan". In Columbia, I tend to stay in mostly but do enjoy walking around the more historical districts to get a bit of fresh air. I also enjoy some of the local barbeque with Palmetto Pig being my favorite.



Samantha Harrell, PharmD: Hey y'all! I grew up in Elizabeth City, NC which is near the Outer Banks. I received my bachelor's in Chemistry at Gardner-Webb University and then my Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences and PharmD from Campbell University. My current clinical interests are internal medicine and cardiology. I really enjoy both areas so I am not quite sure where I may end up just yet! My goals are to work as a clinical pharmacy practitioner (preferably within the VA) with the opportunity to precept students and residents. I truly love clinical and patient care settings and believe I will stay in this role for my career but would love to be an adjunct professor with a school of pharmacy. Outside of pharmacy, I love to work out and play all the sports (slow-pitch softball, tennis, volleyball, you name it), hangout with my fiancé and our two dogs, and hiking. Anything outdoors really!



Karen Hawkins, PharmD: Hi there! I am from Greenville, SC and spent most of my life there. I received my undergraduate degree in Biochemistry at Clemson University (GO TIGERS!) before getting my PharmD at the University of South Carolina. My main pharmacy interest is psychiatric pharmacy. That was one major reason I chose the VA! I would love to eventually practice as a psychiatric pharmacist and get involved in patient advocacy. Outside of pharmacy, I love going to CycleBar spin classes, hanging out on Lake Murray with my fiancé and future in-laws, watching Harry Potter movies, playing board games, and baking. I have one cat named Kingsmore (aka Kingsy) (aka Loaf) (aka Miss Ma'am) and in the future, I would love to foster kittens.



Amy Wortkoetter, PharmD: Hi everyone! I grew up in Greer, SC. I received my bachelor's in Biology and PharmD from Presbyterian College. My professional areas of interest currently include ambulatory care and mental health, but I am keeping my options open! My goals are to work as a clinical pharmacy practitioner in the VA, preferably at a CBOC, where I can precept pharmacy students. Eventually, I plan to transition to a role in academia as well. Outside of pharmacy, I enjoy spending time with my two cats, Amir and Andre, going for walks on the Cayce riverwalk, hiking, hanging out with friends, and listening to music.

PGY2 Ambulatory Care Resident



Bethany McAlhany, PharmD: I grew up in Garden City, SC near Myrtle Beach. I obtained my bachelor's degree from Clemson, my PharmD from MUSC in Charleston, SC, and my MBA from the Citadel. My professional interests include ambulatory care. I don't have a specific area of interest in mind yet, however I am excited to gain more experience in ambulatory care settings this year! I would love to work as a clinical pharmacy practitioner for a few years and transition into an administrative role in the future. I have a Weimaraner named Coco and I enjoy taking her for walks with my husband. I also enjoy playing board games or card games, going bowling, and playing with my four nephews.