

# ***Minneapolis VA Health Care System (MVAHCS) PGY-2 Pain Management and Palliative Care Pharmacy Residency 2023-24:***

This post-graduate year two (PGY-2) Pain Management & pharmacy residency program at the MVAHCS (also known as the “Minneapolis VA”) is one of the first accredited through ASHP. This program has been designed to develop practitioners with the high level of skill required to manage patient care as integral members of interdisciplinary teams. Graduates of this program have been successful in an assortment of clinical mental health positions.



**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

### **ASHP-Accredited**

PGY1 – Pharmacy Residency  
PGY2 – Pain Management and Palliative Care  
PGY2 – Psychiatric Pharmacy  
PGY2 – Geriatric Pharmacy

The MVAHCS is one of the ten largest VA medical centers in the country, serving more than 100,000 veterans in a six-state area of the upper Midwest. The MVAHCS provides a full range of patient care services with state-of-the-art technology, educational resources, and research. More than 100 pharmacists play a vital role in the delivery of patient care; working as a team with physicians, nurses and other health care practitioners to ensure America’s veterans receive the finest care. Pharmacists routinely interact one-on-one with patients providing consultation and guidance on the use of medications through an independent scope of practice. VA pharmacists fully utilize their skills and knowledge in their daily practice.

The MVAHCS has four PGY-2 residents: one focused in Geriatrics, one focused in Psychiatry, and two focused in Pain Management and Palliative Care. In addition, there are four PGY-1 residents. The PGY-1 pharmacy residency program at this facility is one of the first accredited residency programs with 60 years of continuous accreditation by ASHP.

The Minneapolis VA is dedicated to providing comprehensive pain management and palliative care. Services span a variety of settings, including inpatient acute pain management, addiction recovery services, palliative/hospice care, and outpatient pain management through our Comprehensive Pain Center. All teams are interprofessional and include disciplines of nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupation therapy, mental health, and peer support.

The PGY-2 resident will be a vital member of the Comprehensive Pain Center team. The resident will co-manage patients as part of an interdisciplinary team in a practice that has evolved over the years, allowing pharmacists to practice at the top of their license. In addition to completing patient appointments, residents write progress notes for patients they assess and (in collaboration with preceptors) have authority to write prescriptions, order laboratory and other diagnostic tests, consult other services when indicated, and develop therapeutic and monitoring plans for patient follow-up. Care is provided via face-to-face, telephone, and video appointments.

The main hospital has 348 beds and provides acute care services to psychiatry, spinal cord, neurology, surgery, cardiology, intensive care, and general internal medicine. There are also 104 beds in the Community Living Center (CLC). Residents spend 4 weeks on an acute pain management rotation that serves to acclimate the resident to inpatient pain management pharmacy services and serves as a foundation for future care rotations.

MVAHCS is affiliated with the University of Minnesota (UMN) College of Pharmacy and School of Medicine. Residents serve as preceptors to IPPE and APPE students throughout the year. Didactic teaching experiences through the University may be available in PGY-2 programs based on interest. Other opportunities to provide education to pharmacy, nursing, medicine, and/or other disciplines during the year may include but are not limited to in-service education, Pain Grand Rounds, journal club, and medication therapy cases. A teaching certificate program is also available.

## ***Project/Research Requirements***

The MVAHCS pharmacy residency programs use the inverted research model (IRM). During the first half of the year, residents are involved in data collection, data analysis, presentation, and manuscript submission as they finish this project. During the second half of the year, residents start a project to be finished the next residency year, performing the background research, developing the protocol, and obtaining IRB approval (if applicable). This allows residents to gain project management experience in two longitudinal projects during one residency year. Residents work with preceptors and the research team on these projects and present at an appropriate venue each year. A final manuscript is a requirement for completion of the residency. A medication use evaluation (MUE), drug monograph, or designing and implementing an orderset based on guideline updates is also required during the year.

## ***Program Structure in 2023-24***

<b>Area</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Orientation	2-4 weeks
Palliative Care / Hospice	8 weeks
Addiction Recovery Services	4 weeks
Inpatient Pain Management	4 weeks
Primary Care Pain Management	6-8 weeks
Comprehensive Pain Center	6-8 weeks
Chief Resident	Longitudinal (12 months)
Research & Project Management	Longitudinal (administrative)
Professional Service	Longitudinal (administrative)
Leadership, Quality & Management	Longitudinal: 3 – 1-week blocks throughout the residency year
Pain Management, Opioid Safety & PDMP (PMOP) and Pain Academic Detailing	Longitudinal
Rural Health Pain Management	Longitudinal
Palliative Care PLUS / Home Based Primary Care	Longitudinal

## ***Elective Learning Experiences***

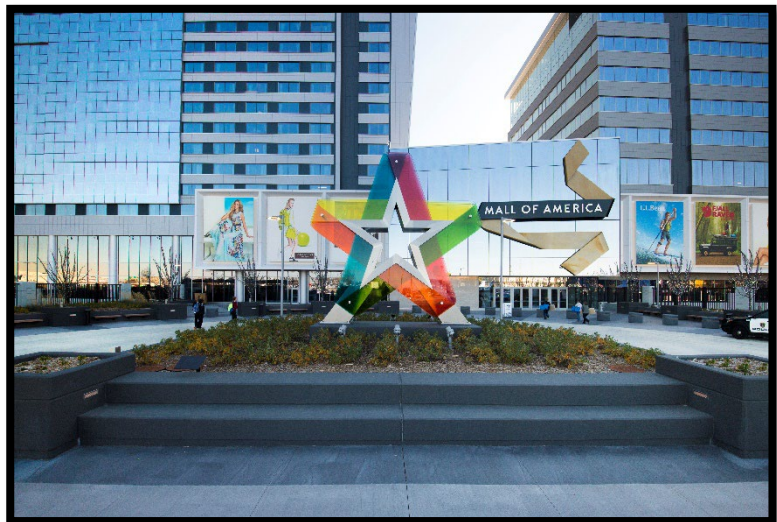
<b>Area</b>	<b>Area</b>
Spinal Cord Injury	Pain Management Long-Term Care CLC
Inpatient Psychiatry	Inpatient Traumatic Brain Injury / Stroke
Outpatient Mental Health	

\*Other elective learning experiences may be developed based on the residents interests and preceptor availability

## *Twin Cities, MN*



The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area has a combined population of over 2.4 million people. The Twin Cities are nationally recognized for their arts, most notable are the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Orchestra, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Science Museum and the Walker Art Center. Not to mention the many art festivals throughout the year. The VA Medical Center is located very near to both the Mall of America and the airport. Recreational activities span the four seasons, and the state is home to seven professional sports teams: Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, Lynx, Wild, Minnesota United FC, and St. Paul Saints. The Twin Cities are also known for music and food.



---

## ***PGY-2 Pain Management & Palliative Care Pharmacy Practice Residency Application Procedure (ASHP Code: 63101; NMS Code General PGY1: 190813; NMS Code General PGY1 with MH Longitudinal Experience: 190821)***

Applicants must be a graduate of an American Council of Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited School of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (Pharm.D.). All residents will be required to be licensed; licensure may be obtained through any U.S. State Board of Pharmacy. U.S. citizenship is required. The applicant must complete an ASHP accredited PGY-1 residency. The applicant must be registered with the American Society of Health System Pharmacists' Match Program. The only exception would be for early commitment. An on-site interview is required for all applicants unless another mode is deemed necessary by the Resident Program Director in advance.

### Application Requirements:

- Complete online application through PhORCAS
- All application materials must be submitted via PhORCAS by January 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2024
- Academic transcripts including pharmacy school transcripts with a description of the grading scale if not on a 4-point system
- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Intent
- Reference Letters (3) utilizing PhORCAS standardized form
- Sample of written work from PGY-1 residency

Some of the criteria considered in choosing residents include knowledge of professional practice, communication skills and ability to apply theory to practice, leadership ability, interest in the program, confidence, and professionalism.

See our website for additional information: <https://www.va.gov/minneapolis-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/pharmacy-student-and-residency-programs/>

---

## ***PGY-2 Pain Management & Palliative Care Pharmacy Practice Residency General Information and Benefits***

### General Information:

- Duration: 12 months
- Number of Positions: 1
- Starting Date: July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Model Type: Teaching, Tertiary
- Estimated Stipend: \$54,731

### Benefits:

- Competitive stipend
  - 4 hours annual leave and 4 hours sick leave per pay period (2 weeks)
  - 11 paid holidays per year
  - Eligible for federal employee health
  - Dedicated resident office space
  - Free parking
-

## Pharmacy Residents



**PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents - Top row: Kyla Dickey, Jason Post, Leyla Rashid, Kally Kvidera, and Claudia Epland; Bottom row: Jacob Mozer, Alyssa Isola, Elizabeth Francis, Tasmiah Rahman, and Hannah VanTruong**



**PGY-2 residents from left to right: Alyssa Isola, Leyla Rashid, Kyla Dickey, and Elizabeth Francis**

PGY-1 Residents	PGY-2 Residents
Claudia Epland Email: <a href="mailto:Claudia.Epland@va.gov">Claudia.Epland@va.gov</a>	Kyla Dickey Email: <a href="mailto:Kyla.Dickey@va.gov">Kyla.Dickey@va.gov</a>
Kally Kvidera Email: <a href="mailto:Kally.Kvidera@va.gov">Kally.Kvidera@va.gov</a>	Elizabeth Francis Email: <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Francis3@va.gov">Elizabeth.Francis3@va.gov</a>
Jacob Mozer Email: <a href="mailto:Jacob.Mozer@va.gov">Jacob.Mozer@va.gov</a>	Alyssa Isola Email: <a href="mailto:Alyssa.Isola@va.gov">Alyssa.Isola@va.gov</a>
Jason Post Email: <a href="mailto:Jason.Post@va.gov">Jason.Post@va.gov</a>	Leyla Rashid Email: <a href="mailto:Leyla.Rashid@va.gov">Leyla.Rashid@va.gov</a>
Tasmiah Rahman Email: <a href="mailto:Tasmiah.Rahman@va.gov">Tasmiah.Rahman@va.gov</a>	
Hannah VanTruong Email: <a href="mailto:Hannah.VanTruong@va.gov">Hannah.VanTruong@va.gov</a>	

## Program Director



Ashley Fike, PharmD, MPH  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Comprehensive Pain Center  
Minneapolis VAHCS  
1 Veterans Drive  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
Phone: 612-895-9519  
Email: [Ashley.Fike@va.gov](mailto:Ashley.Fike@va.gov)  
(preferred)

## Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System, we are committed to fostering and sustaining an environment which celebrates diversity, provides equitable opportunities for employment and promotion, and supports inclusiveness in pharmacy culture. We embrace our differences as individuals and unite as a pharmacy team toward a common goal: to deliver optimal, patient-centered care for our nation's Veterans.



## Congratulations 2022-23 Resident Graduates:

From left to right bottom row: Christy Varghese (PGY-2 pain management and palliative care), Becky Thelen (PGY-1 general), and Leyla Rashid (PGY-1 general with mental health longitudinal exp)

From left to right top row: Sabrina Sturm (PGY-1 general), Jesse Upton (PGY-2 psychiatry), Hailee Griffin (PGY-2 geriatrics), and Siri Roberts (PGY-1 general)



