

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Phoenix VA Health Care System Preceptor Biographies

RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Courtney Speaks PharmD, BCPS (she/her/hers) is originally from the suburbs of Chicago and a 2011 graduate of Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy. She completed the PGY-1 Ambulatory Care Focus Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2011-2012. After residency, Courtney served as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Reno and Phoenix VAs with the majority of time in PACT. In 2019, Courtney took a new role as the Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor for Acute Care, Anticoagulation, Emergency Department, Community Living Center, Infectious Disease, and Transitions of Care. She recently accepted the role of Associate Chief of Ambulatory Care and Education. Courtney has a strong dedication to Veteran care with multiple Veteran family members that utilize VA throughout the country. Outside of work, she enjoys time with family and friends, watching sports (especially Chicago White Sox baseball or Chicago Blackhawks hockey), traveling, and reading.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Taylor Kirby, PharmD, BC-ADM (she/her/hers) is originally from a small town in central Illinois. She received her BS in Biomedical Science with a minor in Chemistry and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. She completed a PGY1 Ambulatory Care Focused Residency at VA St. Louis Health Care System. Following residency, Taylor joined the Phoenix VA Health Care System and currently serves as a PACT Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner. Her areas of interest include chronic disease state management, specifically diabetes and weight loss, and process improvement to improve veteran outcomes. She's also passionate about improving veteran education to actively manage their chronic disease states and serves as an educator within the Phoenix VA Diabetes Self-Management Education curriculum. In her spare time, she enjoys watching baseball (Go Cubs!), visiting new breweries and restaurants, traveling, hiking, and her new hobby of rollerblading.

PRECEPTORS



Matthew Ahuett, PharmD, BCPS received his degree from the University of Illinois in 1989. He practiced in a retail setting until 1994 when he joined the Phoenix VA Healthcare system pharmacy team. He practiced mainly in primary care until accepting the Pain Management Clinical Pharmacy Specialist position in 2013. In 2022, he accepted the role of Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) Coordinator. Outside of his career, Matthew enjoys several types of physical activity including running, biking, and weightlifting.



Sarah Allen, PharmD, BCPP is originally from Glendale, AZ and received her PharmD education from Midwestern University. She completed her PGY1 and PGY2 residencies at the Phoenix VA and accepted a clinical pharmacy specialist position in inpatient mental health at the facility. As an Arizona native, Sarah prefers to stay in Phoenix to be close to her family and she loves the desert! Being surrounded by top clinicians and having the ability to foster interdisciplinary relationships are what draws her to the Phoenix VA. Sarah's professional goals include publishing her research project, actively participating in CPNP, and becoming a Residency Program Director or Coordinator one day. Her favorite things about being a preceptor are that it helps keep her current with literature, fosters better ways to translate teaching learners to teaching patients, and she enjoys seeing learners' progression.



Sara Anderson, PharmD, BCPS graduated from Arizona State University in 1998 with a BS in Biology then earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Midwestern University-Glendale in 2001. Following graduation, she completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson then joined the clinical pharmacy team at the Phoenix VA in 2002. Currently, she is a clinical pharmacy specialist working in the areas of Internal Medicine and Surgery. She serves as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents in addition to pharmacy students from the University of Arizona School of Pharmacy. Sara enjoys spending time with her husband and two boys and if she is not at a baseball tournament or swim meet, she enjoys yoga, traveling, photography, and spending time with family and friends.



Annie Bailey, PharmD, BCOP received her BA in biology from Alfred University where she was on the equestrian team. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Presbyterian College and completed a PGY-1 residency at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System. She went on to complete her PGY-2 in oncology at the Durham VA Healthcare System and joined the oncology team in Phoenix in 2020. In her current role, she educates patients and family on antineoplastic agents, facilitates the oral chemotherapy clinic, ensures appropriate supportive care efforts, and educates trainees. She enjoys helping students and residents understand that all pharmacists can have an important role in caring for oncology patients. In her free time, she enjoys all the outdoor aspects Arizona has to offer including hiking, camping, horseback riding, and playing pickleball.



Shivani Bhanderi, PharmD is originally from West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Now this is a story all about how her life got turned right side up and she'd like to take a minute, just sit right there, she'll tell you how she became the princess of a town called Phoenix. In West Philadelphia, born and raised, in the books is where she spent most of my days. Chillin' outmaxin' relaxin' all cool when a couple of patients who were way too good started making comments in her student run clinic. She got in one little convo and her patient was glad, she said "you're going to do a residency and become an ambulatory care pharmacist". She took her patient's advice and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy- University of the Sciences in 2017. She then went on to complete her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care system. In August 2018, she joined the Phoenix VA Health Care system as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Medical/Surgical Specialty Clinics. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, dancing, playing tennis, going to Disney World and watching the Philadelphia Eagles.



Shamama Burney, Pharm.D., is originally from Northern California and earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy from University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in Oklahoma City, OK in 2012. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Norman Regional Hospital in Norman, OK (2012 – 2013). In December 2013, she joined the West Texas VA pharmacy team in Big Spring, TX as a clinical pharmacy specialist providing anticoagulation management, and quickly transitioned to primary care providing chronic disease state management. In addition, Shamama began a new PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at her facility for the 2015 – 2016 residency cycle, serving as Residency Program Director to two residents. In October 2015, she joined the Phoenix VA pharmacy team in Scottsdale, AZ, continuing her practice in primary care and serving as the primary pharmacist overseeing four community-based outpatient clinics (currently Northeast). Her interests include academia, scholarship, precepting students and residents, and promoting leadership within the pharmacy profession. She also participated in the Clinician Educators Program offered through Midwestern University for the 2016 – 2017 cycle and completed Basic Skills Training for Academic Detailing offered through VA National, working to advance her teaching and precepting skills. In addition to her career, Shamama is passionate about digital photography and traveling the world, having been to 22 countries and counting.



Caitlin Dirvonas, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP grew up in the desert oasis of Tucson, Arizona. She graduated from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2014 (Bear Down, Wildcats!). After this she took a slightly untraditional route by moving out to Nashville and working for a year as a dispensing pharmacist at a long-term care pharmacy before applying to residency. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the Tennessee Valley VA Healthcare System in Nashville, Tennessee. She loves working with the Veteran population to help manage pharmacotherapy for PTSD, depression, anxiety, mood disorders, insomnia, and substance use disorders. In her free time she enjoys watching Food Network, pretending like she is a professional chef, and spending time with her husband and fur children, Maggie and Zose (“Zosyn”).



Kristin Dorry, PharmD (she/her/hers) was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. She completed her undergraduate in Molecular Biotechnology with a minor in Spanish at ASU in 2015. She then completed her PharmD from University of Arizona in 2019. Following graduation, she moved to Medford, Oregon to complete an ambulatory care-focused PGY1 at VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinic. After completing residency, she stayed on as a float pharmacist providing cross-coverage for PACT, PCMH, Pain management, and Anticoagulation clinics. She transferred back to Phoenix VA as a PACT clinical pharmacist in 2021 and currently works at the Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad VA CBOC. Her passions include diabetes, hypertension, and enabling veterans to take control of their disease states. In 2022 she welcomed her first son Owen and enjoys spending times outdoors with her family and dogs Wilson, Wally, and Charlie.



Vivian Du, PharmD, BCPP is originally from West Springfield, MA and received her PharmD from the University of Connecticut. She completed her PGY1 residency at the Holyoke Health Center and her PGY2 residency at the VA in Columbia, SC. Vivian transitioned to the Phoenix VA in 2019 for the opportunity to work as an independent practitioner at a progressive VA site that favors the team approach. She loves the team that she works with, the hiking, and the great food in Phoenix! Vivian currently works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in outpatient mental health at the Southeast CBOC. Her professional goals are to increase access to mental health care, including same day access at her clinic and start medication education groups at the clinic. Vivian's favorite things about precepting are being able to contribute to the future generation of pharmacists, learning from residents, and getting to see the "light bulb" moment when a learner understands a difficult concept.



Donna Faber, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP (she/her/hers) is originally from Chicago, IL. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy and completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Iowa City Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System. After residency, she worked in the managed care setting as a Clinical Consultant Pharmacist at the University of Massachusetts Medical School – Clinical Pharmacy Services. During her time there, Dr. Faber served as a team lead for the Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative for the state pharmacy Medicaid program. In 2016, she joined the Phoenix VA Health Care System Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) as a Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner and transitioned to the Pharmacoeconomics/Formulary Manager role in April 2020. Dr. Faber's areas of interest include formulary management, drug information, chronic disease state management, and psychiatry. She currently serves as a residency preceptor for the Pharmacoeconomics longitudinal and elective rotations. Outside of pharmacy, she enjoys spending time with her dog Fiona, plant-based cooking, visiting local festivals and farmers markets, practicing yoga and meditation, reading, and voice over acting.



Julia Gilbertson, PharmD (she/her/hers) is a Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor overseeing outpatient mental health and pain management. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy in 2020. She then completed a PGY-1/2 Health-Systems Pharmacy Administration and Leadership Residency at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, WI. Julia joined the pharmacy team at the Phoenix VA in August 2022. Julia serves as a pharmacy preceptor for the pharmacy administration rotation in the PGY1 pharmacy residency program. Julia's career interests include advancement of ambulatory care pharmacy practice, local and national involvement in pharmacy organizations to push practice forward, and mentorship of pharmacy residents and students to help them achieve their individual career goals. She is also passionate about the integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion within pharmacy and the healthcare system as a whole. In her free time, Julia enjoys hiking with her dog, Tucker; playing tennis; and spending time with her family and friends.



Nicole Graybill, PharmD, BCPS began working as a primary care clinical pharmacist practitioner at the Phoenix VA in 2019 after completing an acute care PGY1 residency followed by an internal medicine PGY2 residency at the Phoenix VA. Prior to her residencies and pharmacy studies at Midwestern University, Glendale, Nicole owned and operated a real estate brokerage, worked as a real estate paralegal, and compulsively volunteered at a number of philanthropy-based organizations. She is originally from Iowa, but has spent most of her life in Arizona with her military-retired husband and two sons, one of which is currently serving in the military. Nicole enjoys helping patients and training new members of the Phoenix VA to continually improve the care we provide to the veterans we serve.



Madeline Green, PharmD (she/her/hers) is originally from Indianola, Iowa and is a 2021 graduate of Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Phoenix VA Health Care System in 2022. After residency, Madeline joined the PACT Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner team at the Phoenix VA. She currently works with both regular PACT and geriatric PACT teams. Madeline is passionate about disease prevention, patient education and empowerment, chronic disease state management, and expansion of clinical pharmacy services. Outside of work, Madeline enjoys trying new restaurants, spending time with friends and family, hiking, reading, and watching Creighton basketball.



Sam Grimm PharmD, BCPS is from Mesa, AZ and currently lives and works in Gilbert, AZ. Sam is a Navy veteran who served on 2 U.S. aircraft carriers during operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (1999-2003). He graduated pharmacy school from Sullivan University (Louisville KY) in 2012 and completed an PGY1 residency at the St. Louis VA in 2013. Sam joined the Phoenix VA in 2013 initially working as an outpatient pharmacist and later transitioning to a PACT CPS position in 2015 at the main hospital. Currently he is working at the Southeast Clinic in Gilbert and has been a PACT PGY1 preceptor since 2015. He is a fan of pretty much all AZ sports (Cardinals, Diamondback, Suns) and enjoys going camping in northern AZ.



Niru Gupta, PharmD, BCPS (she/her/hers) grew up in southern California and Las Vegas. She received her BS degree from California State University Long Beach and her Doctor of Pharmacy from University of California, San Francisco. She completed a residency in ambulatory care at the Phoenix VA and transitioned into her current position as a clinical pharmacist in the Medical/Surgical Specialty Clinics. Niru continues to work in the specialty clinic as well as spending significant time with the Immunodeficiency (HIV) clinic. Additionally, she likes to be involved with facility and departmental committees. Outside of work Niru values her quality time with her family and friends. She enjoys hobbies related to mindfulness, fitness/health activities (especially Bikram yoga), as well as a love for travel, being outdoors, and most events related to music.



Diane Hagen, PharmD received her BS in Biology and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Arizona (Go Cats!). She then moved to Chicago to do her PGY1 clinical residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1992. After residency, Diane started her career at St. Luke's hospital in Phoenix as the clinical pharmacist in the MICU/SICU. After 3 years she was recruited to join the expanding Phoenix VA clinical pharmacy team in 1995. Her clinical work has ranged from intensive care to internal medicine and is now focused on geriatrics in the Community Living Center (CLC). She is a preceptor for the Phoenix VA pharmacy residents, and pharmacy students through the University of Arizona. When not working, Diane enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, playing card games, hiking, reading, and traveling.



Deanna Hansen, PharmD, CACP returned to college after serving ~10 years in the US Navy as an Ocean Systems Technician. She graduated from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in 1999 after completing a BS at the University of Northern Iowa and then went on to complete a specialized residency in ambulatory care at the Iowa City VAMC where her focus was managing patients with diabetes, asthma, high cholesterol and anticoagulation therapy and assisting in medication management. Upon finishing her residency, Dr. Hansen moved to Mason City, Iowa where she established their first pharmacist-run anticoagulation clinic. Being a veteran, she believes strongly in the mission of the VA so in 2002, she moved to Arizona, where she continues to practice at the Phoenix VA specializing in anticoagulation therapy. Outside of work, she enjoys working with her dogs, volunteering as a part-time trainer for a veteran service dog association, participating in a motorcycle color guard, hiking, kayaking, target shooting and reading.



Kayla Haverkamp, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP (she/her/hers) is originally from Cedar Rapids, Iowa and graduated from the Creighton University School of Pharmacy in Omaha, Nebraska. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the Phoenix VA before going to the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System for her PGY2 in Ambulatory Care in Nashville. After PGY2, Kayla rejoined the team at the Phoenix VA as a PACT Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner and has interests in diabetes, hypertension, and weight loss. In her free time, Kayla likes to play volleyball, go hiking and to happy hour, try new restaurants, and watch the Bachelor and the Phoenix Suns.



Melanie Herring, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Omaha, NE and received her PharmD education from the University of Nebraska. She completed her PGY1 residency at the Phoenix VA. Melanie transitioned to the Phoenix VA 25 years ago after completing her residency and stayed for her love of the desert. She enjoys being a part of a multidisciplinary team, having autonomy in her practice, and being rewarded by patient appreciation for the care she provides. Melanie currently works as a clinical pharmacy specialist in outpatient mental health. Her professional goals include promoting clinical pharmacy and striving to keep current while adapting to changing practice. Melanie's favorites things about being a preceptor are learning from the residents and seeing them gain confidence and comfort in psychiatric care.



Jessica Hopper, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP is originally from Laramie, WY and received her PharmD education from the University of Wyoming. She completed her PGY1 and PGY2 residencies at the Salt Lake City VA. Jessica transitioned to Phoenix in 2015 for the warmer climate, outdoor activities, and food scene. Jessica enjoys working with the veteran population, having a scope of practice, and working with multidisciplinary teams at the Phoenix VA. Jessica currently works as a clinical pharmacy specialist in inpatient mental health. In addition, she serves as the PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program Director. Her professional goals include finding mentoring opportunities, continuing lifelong learning, and maintaining her board certifications. Jessica's favorite thing about being a preceptor is seeing young professionals grow in clinical and professional confidence.



Amanda Huels, PharmD is originally from Powell, Ohio (Go Bucks!). She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy in 2005 from the University of Arizona and completed her PGY1 Ambulatory CareFocus residency at the Phoenix VA Health Care System the following year. Her first 10 years of clinical practice were spent primarily in the Primary Care PACT Ambulatory Care clinics offering disease state management appointments and ancillary coverage of several additional practice areas including Show Low CBOC, Allergy/Asthma Clinic, and the Homeless PACT. She also started the pharmacy role within the Bariatric Clinic at the VA offering pharmacological assistance to these patients pre- and post-bariatric surgery. Amanda is a graduate of the VA VISN 18/19 Leadership Development Institute (LDI) program. In 2016, she transitioned her clinical practice to Home Base Primary Care (HBPC) and continues to work with interdisciplinary teams to assist in Veteran care within the comfort of their own home. Outside of work, Amanda enjoys spending time with her husband and 2 children, being a leader of her daughters Girl Scout troop, walking her dog (Daisy Mae), traveling, riding horses, and volunteering with the Junior League of Phoenix.



Stephanie Keca, PharmD, BCACP is originally from the Chicago suburbs. She graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Following graduation, she completed her PGY1 and PGY2 residencies at the Lexington VA Healthcare System, specializing in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. Stephanie joined the Home Based Primary Care team at the Phoenix VAHCS in 2018, where she continues to serve as a preceptor in the PGY1 Geriatrics rotation. Her clinical interests include diabetes, geriatrics, hypertension, and infectious disease. In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys spoiling her two cats, trying new restaurants, traveling, going to concerts, and cheering on the Chicago Cubs and Green Bay Packers.



Chelsea Khaw, PharmD, BCPP is originally from Cedar Rapids, IA and graduated from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in 2017. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the Iowa City VA Healthcare System in Iowa City, IA. She worked for the Iowa City VA as a Mental Health CPP from 2019 – 2022, then transferred to the Phoenix VA. Clinical interests include working with the Veteran population to help manage pharmacotherapy for PTSD, mood disorders, insomnia, psychotic disorders and substance use disorders. In her free time, Chelsea enjoys hiking with her dog Leo, working out, traveling, and watching HGTV... then attempting to renovate/decorate her own home.



Lindsay Kittler, PharmD, BCPS has lived in Phoenix since age 7. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Midwestern University College of Pharmacy – Glendale (MWU-CPG) and completed her PGY1 General Practice Residency at Maricopa Medical Center in 2002, and a PGY2 Cardiology Pharmacy Residency with an emphasis in academia at MWU-CPG in 2003. After spending almost 5 years in academia with an acute care focus, she joined the Phoenix VA inpatient clinical team, providing support to critical care, internal medicine, surgery, and cardiology patients. In April 2016 she transitioned to outpatient care as a clinical pharmacy practitioner for medical/surgical subspecialty clinics. She is most passionate about collaborating with providers and colleagues in the provision of complete, quality, and practical care. She is a long-standing member of the Arizona Pharmacy Association (AzPA) and has been a student preceptor for both MWU-CPG and the University of Arizona. Lindsay has two teenage children, enjoys staying active in the outdoors, and actively serves as a leader in the Scouts BSA program.



Celyna Koopmann, PharmD (she/her/hers) is originally from a small town in eastern Iowa and is a 2021 graduate of Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa. Following graduation, she completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Phoenix VA Health Care System in 2022. After residency, Celyna joined the clinical pharmacy team at the Phoenix VA as a clinical pharmacist practitioner splitting her time between PACT and Women's Health. Her areas of interest include chronic disease state management, patient education and precepting. Outside of work, Celyna enjoys trying new restaurants, traveling, golf, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.



Debbie Lee, PharmD (she/her/hers) graduated from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in 2006. She completed a PGY1 Ambulatory Care Focus Residency at the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona in 2007. After completing her residency, she joined the team at the Phoenix VAMC as a staff pharmacist and then became a member of the Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Team in 2009. She currently works as a Primary Care PACT Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner and is a member of the Bariatric Surgery Advisory Team. Her areas of interest include chronic disease state management and precepting students and residents. Outside of work, Debbie enjoys spending quality time with family and friends, playing volleyball, and traveling.



Amy K. Leung PharmD, BCPS (she/her/hers) graduated from The University of Arizona in 2004 and completed an Ambulatory Care Residency at the Phoenix VA Health Care System in 2005. After practicing in the inpatient pharmacy, Amy transitioned to ambulatory care in 2008 where she continues to serve as a clinical pharmacist practitioner. She has participated in various shared medical appointments such as heart failure and HTN, and currently bariatric surgery. Amy remains involved in pharmacy organizations, serving on ACCP Ambulatory care Subcommittees, and annually reviews APhA Foundation Incentive Grants. She has also been involved in national VA workgroups, serving as the VA Clinical Advisory Board, Editorial Group Leader from 2011-2012. Locally, she is a member of the New Provider Orientation Committee and Bariatric Advisory Team, and enjoys working with and challenging pharmacy residents to reach the best of their clinical abilities and preparing them for a career in clinical pharmacy beyond the residency. Personally, Amy enjoys staying active, being outdoors, and traveling/eating around the world.



Micki Burch Martin, PharmD received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Phoenix VAMC. In 1991, she joined the Phoenix VA team as the 3rd clinical pharmacist initially working in the area of Internal Medicine with an emphasis in Infectious Disease and has since rotated to a variety of practice settings throughout the hospital including Surgery, Nutrition support, Critical Care and CLC/Hospice Unit. Most recently, she has helped to expand pharmacy services by developing a role in the outpatient Hospice/Palliative Care Clinic. She holds an appointment through the University of Arizona as a clinical instructor and has enjoyed precepting over 178 students/residents. In addition to working at the Phoenix VA, Dr. Martin is the Pharmacy Advisor for, and travels with, two medical mission organizations - One Child Matters and Developing Workers. In her spare time, she stays busy with her family including 4 grown kids and 3 dogs and exploring the outdoors.



James McNamara, PharmD graduated with his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from St. John's University in New York in 2007. He went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the James J. Peters (Bronx) VA Medical Center in 2008. James accepted a position as a staff pharmacist at the Bronx VAMC after completing his residency and was eventually promoted into a PACT Clinical Pharmacy position. While in this position, he focused on diabetes, lipid, and hypertension management while also collaborating with facility leadership to further develop pharmacy's role in the program. James remained in this position until relocating to Arizona in 2013. He spent time in the private sector after the move, continuing his focus in ambulatory care. He accepted a position at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in 2015, joining the outpatient anticoagulation management service. James currently resides in Scottsdale with his wife and kids. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, keeping up with his New York sports teams, and playing baseball.



Gordana (Goga) Milosevic, PharmD (she/her/hers) is originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina and grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, IL. She received her Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2011, and then she earned her PharmD from Roosevelt University in 2014. She completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at Aurora Health Care in 2015; and in 2016 she completed a PGY-2 Health System Pharmacy Administration Residency at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, SC. In August 2016, she joined the Phoenix VA pharmacy team as a Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager where she oversaw the primary care clinical pharmacy services. In 2020 she transitioned to the role of Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Services. In late 2021, she entered her current role as Chief of Pharmacy is excited for the expanded opportunity to impact pharmacy services and patient care! She enjoys working on process improvements as well as mentoring team members and trainees to help them reach their career aspirations. When she's away from the pharmacy world, she enjoys traveling, going to Suns games, volunteering, and spending quality time with family, friends, and her pup Max.



Jeff Moghina, PharmD, BCPS graduated from Midwestern University College of Pharmacy in Glendale, AZ in 2010. He completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Roseburg VA Healthcare System in Roseburg, Oregon in 2011. After completing his residency, he joined the staff at the Phoenix VA in the outpatient pharmacy. He joined the clinical pharmacy staff in February 2012 working in the outpatient anticoagulation service. He earned his board certification in pharmacotherapy in 2012. His current practice is in the anticoagulation services; he is also interested in diabetes, medication management, and patient education. Outside of pharmacy he enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking, tennis, mission work, and traveling.



Linh Nguyen, PharmD, MHSc, MPH (she/her/hers) is originally from Seattle, Washington but has been a nomad in the latter years of her life. After graduating with her BS in biology from Texas Woman's University, she moved to the sunny state of Florida to complete her Masters of Health Care Sciences and Masters of Public Health at Nova Southeastern University. Her adventures took her back home to the PNW, where she completed her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Washington State University (Go Cougs!). She went on to complete her PGY-1 residency at the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System and PGY-2 oncology residency at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System. In August 2022, she joined the oncology team at the Phoenix VA as a Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner in Oncology. She loves working within an interdisciplinary team to provide optimal oncologic care to our Veterans and mentoring student/residents during their trainee journey. In her spare time, she enjoys sand volleyball, rock climbing, hiking, road trips, and exploring the outdoors with her border collie Addee!



Taylor Nichols, PharmD, BCPP (she/her/hers) received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007, and then a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of the Incarnate Word in 2012. She later completed her PGY1 and PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy residencies at the Medical University of South Carolina. Taylor took a hybrid role as a psychiatric pharmacy specialist and Assistant Director of Pharmacy at a Phoenix community hospital upon completion of her residencies. In 2016, she joined the Phoenix VA Health Care System. Taylor serves as a clinical pharmacy specialist in the Domiciliary-Substance Use Disorders (DOM-SUD) and outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program (SUDTP) clinic. She focuses her practice on substance use disorders and is passionate about expanding harm reduction services across the facility. Taylor also enjoys teaching a variety of learners and disciplines. In her spare time, Taylor enjoys spending time exploring the local food/drink scene, traveling with family and friends, camping, and caring for her dog Franklin.



Bianca Ortiz, PharmD (she/her/hers) is originally from Freeport, New York and grew up in Central Florida before moving to the Phoenix area in 2008. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy in 2021 from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy – Phoenix and completed postgraduate training in 2022 at the Phoenix VA Health Care System, focusing in ambulatory care, geriatrics, and hospice/palliative care. Upon completing PGY1, she joined the outpatient primary care team at Phoenix VA as a PACT/Geri-PACT clinical pharmacist practitioner and serves as the clinical pharmacist for the COACH (*Caring for Older Adults and Caregivers at Home*) dementia program. Her interests include chronic disease state management, Veteran-centered care, and geriatric syndromes. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and maltipoo, trying new restaurants with friends, and traveling.



Palna Patel, PharmD, BCPS is originally from the Bay Area, CA and is a 2015 graduate of Midwestern University College of Pharmacy – Glendale, AZ. She completed a PGY1 PharmacyPractice residency at Northwest Medical Center in Tucson. After completing her residency in 2016, she returned to Phoenix and began her practice at a community hospital as a decentralized Clinical Pharmacist with a focus in intensive care then later accepted a position as Pharmacy Clinical Manager. During this time, her practice focused on developing clinical initiatives, the antimicrobial stewardship program, and opioid stewardship program. In 2020, she joined the Phoenix VA where she currently works as an Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist working directly with medical and surgical teams. Palna precepts PGY1 residents in addition to students from Midwestern University and the University of Arizona. In her spare time, she enjoys staying active, traveling, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.



Misael Porras, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico and a 2014 graduate of University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. He completed the PGY-1 Acute Care Focus Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2014-2015 and the PGY2 Internal Medicine Specialty Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2015-2016. After completing his residency, he accepted a position at the Phoenix VA as an Acute Care/Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist. In 2022, he transitioned to the Northwest Clinic as a PACT clinical pharmacist. His practice interests include a broad range of internal medicine and critical care topics such as infectious disease, diabetes, anticoagulation, pulmonary and cardiology. Additionally, Misael enjoys teaching and has served as a clinical preceptor for student pharmacist and PGY1/PGY2 residents. Outside of work Misael enjoys spending quality time with his family, hiking, reading, traveling, and attending sporting events of local sports teams.



Sheida Rahimzadeh, PharmD, received her PharmD degree from the University of Arizona in 2013. She completed her PGY-1 Residency at the Southern Arizona Veteran Health Care System (SAVAHCS) in 2014 and accepted a position there as Inpatient Clinical Pharmacy Specialist from 2014-2016. In 2016, Sheida transitioned to the ambulatory care side and became the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Hepatitis C and various ambulatory care areas. She worked with the GI team to treat and cure patients infected with Hepatitis C and provided primary care (PACT) services for the Women's Health Clinic. She also served as a member of the Tucson Regional Transgender Team and participated in the transgender specialty clinic. After deciding to move back to her hometown in 2018, Sheida accepted the position of Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner (CPP) in Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) at the Phoenix VA Health Care System. She is excited to continue to serve as a preceptor in this versatile setting working with the geriatric population. Outside of work, Sheida enjoys traveling, weightlifting, salsa dancing, trying new restaurants, and spending time with her family and friends.



Jennifer Retterer, PharmD, BCPS, CDCES, BC-ADM received her PharmD degree from University of Arizona in 1997. She then completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Reno, Nevada VA Hospital and Clinics and joined the PVAHCS primary care pharmacy team in 1998. Since 1999, she has had an adjunct faculty appointment (APPE preceptor) with the University of Arizona. She was PGY1 residency coordinator 2001-2004 and then residency director 2005-2009. She currently works at the 32nd St VA Clinic, where she remains active in the residency program precepting PACT rotations and the monthly PGY1 residency journal club. Her practice passion is comprehensive diabetes management. Outside of work Jenn enjoys traveling with her family, reading, and hot yoga. Picture of Jenn drawn by her daughter when she was in kindergarten.



Tamara Rowland, PharmD, BCPS (she/her/hers) is a Formulary Manager / Pharmacoeconomist at the Phoenix VA specializing in Applied Pharmacoeconomics, Medication Safety, and Outcomes Research. She is a preceptor for the Pharmacoeconomics rotation and helps coordinate longitudinal residency projects such as Medication Use Evaluations, Disease Management Guidelines, Medication Criteria for Use guidance, and adverse drug event reporting. Dr. Rowland is a member of several hospital and regional committees including the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, Medication Process and Safety Subcommittee, Pharmacy DEI Workgroup, VISN 22 Pharmacy Benefits Management Committee, and VISN 22 Pharmacoeconomics Workgroup. Dr. Rowland earned her PharmD degree from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the Southern Arizona VA. She worked as a Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at the Southern Arizona VA and then in the Anticoagulation Clinic at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center before returning to Arizona in 2006. She has been a Formulary Manager / Pharmacoeconomist at the Phoenix VA ever since. When not at work you might find her riding the local mountain bike trails, making custom pens on her lathe, volunteering with local non-profit agencies, and spending quality time with her family.



Kali Savoca, PharmD, BCPP (she/her/hers) is originally from Cleveland, OH and received her PharmD education from the University of Cincinnati. She completed her PGY1 residency at the VA in Charleston, SC and her PGY2 residency at the Salt Lake City VA. Kali transitioned to Phoenix in September 2019 when an inpatient mental health position opened at the Phoenix VA. She appreciates the Phoenix VA's diverse and knowledgeable mental health pharmacy team that continues to expand. She finds the abundance of sunshine and close proximity to outdoor activities an added bonus after shivering through too many Midwest winters! Kali currently works as a clinical pharmacy specialist in inpatient mental health. Her professional goals include continuing to strengthen her precepting skills for students and residents and expanding her involvement in professional organizations. Kali's favorite thing about being a preceptor is watching learners progress in both their knowledge and confidence over the course of their learning experience. Outside of work, she loves cycling, traveling, hanging out with her cat Kevin, and trying not to kill her houseplants (with ~75% success rate).



Annie Sciorba, PharmD is originally from the suburbs of Chicago and moved to Iowa to earn her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University in 2013. Following graduation, she completed a PGY1 Ambulatory Care Focus Residency and a PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency at the Phoenix VA Healthcare System. She joined the Phoenix VA Healthcare System as a mental health outpatient pharmacist in 2015 and works to help manage depression, anxiety, PTSD, insomnia, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and substance use disorders. She serves as one of the preceptors for the outpatient mental health residency rotation along with the interdisciplinary clinic longitudinal rotation. She enjoys watching and playing sports in her free time. Go Bears!



Kathy Sherman, PharmD is an Air Force Veteran and obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Kansas in 1997. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Phoenix VA Medical Center from 1997-1998. After completing her residency, she joined the team at the Phoenix VA as a clinical pharmacist. She has worked both with specialty clinics and ambulatory care. She is currently located at the Southeast Ambulatory Care Clinic in Gilbert, AZ. Kathy enjoys precepting students and residents and providing excellent health care to fellow veterans. Kathy has three children and enjoys hiking and running in the beautiful state of Arizona.



Shannon Stratton, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Pittsburgh, PA and a 2011 graduate of Shenandoah University- Bernard J Dunn School of Pharmacy. She completed the PGY-1 Acute Care Focus Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2011-2012 and the PGY2 Internal Medicine Specialty Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2012-2013. After completing her residency, she accepted a position at Banner Boswell Medical Center as an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist. This practice environment focused on internal medicine in a primarily geriatric population. During her time at Banner Boswell she worked on developing internal medicine services, system wide workgroups, and the education and development of PGY1 Pharmacy residents. In September 2015, she returned to Phoenix VA where she currently works as an Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist working directly with medical and surgical teams. Her practice interests include a broad range of internal medicine topics such as infectious disease, cardiology, and anticoagulation. Additionally, Shannon is a clinical preceptor through the University of Arizona as well as Midwestern University-Glendale and enjoys precepting students and PGY1/PGY2 residents throughout the year. Outside of work Shannon enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling to new places, trying new restaurants around the phoenix area, and staying physically active.



Christina Suguitan, PharmD, BCPS (she/her/hers) graduated from Arizona State University in 2010 with a BS in Medicinal Biochemistry and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Midwestern University College of Pharmacy – Glendale in 2015. Following graduation, she completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency focusing in acute care at the Phoenix VA Healthcare System, followed by a PGY2 in Internal Medicine pharmacy practice. After completing residency in 2017, she began practice as an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist at Banner Boswell, until returning to the Phoenix VA as a Clinical Pharmacist specializing in Internal Medicine and Critical Care in 2018. She precepts residents from the PGY1 program, as well as students from Midwestern University, College of Pharmacy. She enjoys running, yoga, reading, eating, and traveling.



Annie Tam, PharmD (she/her/hers) is originally from Ohio and graduated from the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy in 2020. She completed a PGY-1 at the Cincinnati VA and served as a clinical pharmacist practitioner (CPP) supervisor and facility Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) Coordinator at the VA Illiana HCS. In 2022, Annie relocated to Phoenix and started her current position as the CPP supervisor for specialty services including anticoagulation, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, home-based primary care, medical/surgical specialty, and palliative care. She appreciates the opportunity to work with various specialties and to learn something new every day! Outside of work, Annie enjoys spending time outdoors (away from the Midwest snow) and visiting her family in New Mexico.



Andrea Tanzella, PharmD is originally from Phoenix, AZ and received her PharmD education from Shenandoah University. She completed her PGY1 residency at the Wilkes-Barre VA and her PGY2 residency at the Phoenix VA. As an Arizona native, Andrea transitioned to the Phoenix VA after completing her PGY2 residency and stays active with all of the outdoor activities Phoenix has to offer. She appreciates having a large mental health clinical pharmacy team at the Phoenix VA to collaborate with and learn from. Andrea currently works as a clinical pharmacy specialist in outpatient mental health. Her professional goals include continuing to expand her clinical knowledge and teaching the next generations of clinicians. Andrea's favorite thing about being a preceptor is seeing residents grow from students to independent clinicians.



Chris Taylor, PharmD, BCPS is a clinical pharmacy specialist in the areas of internal medicine and critical care medicine. Chris is originally from Kentucky and received his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the University of Kentucky. He completed both PGY1 and PGY2 Internal Medicine residency training at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville before joining the Phoenix VA Healthcare System in 2000. He served as the Residency Coordinator for the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program from 2002-2005 and the Residency Director of the PGY2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency Program from 2005-2019. His practice interests include clinical and experiential education, infectious diseases, and cardiovascular medicine. Chris serves on the faculty of The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy, Midwestern University College of Pharmacy, Marshall B. Ketchum University College of Pharmacy (California), and Marshall University College of Pharmacy (West Virginia). He is actively involved in precepting as well as presenting lectures and conducting workshops for these academic institutions. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, Broadway musicals, and golf.



Yen Tran, PharmD, BCPP is originally from Saigon, Vietnam and received her PharmD education from the University of Arizona. She completed her PGY1 residency at the Phoenix VA. Yen moved to Phoenix in 1986 and loves the centralized location with easy access to the beach, snow, and Sedona! Yen currently works as a clinical pharmacy specialist in outpatient mental health at the Southeast CBOC. She enjoys her scope of practice, working with other clinical pharmacists, and the team environment at the Phoenix VA. Her professional goals include expanding access to care and continuing to promote clinical pharmacy and expand their scopes of practice. Yen's favorite things about precepting are tailoring different teaching styles to learners and seeing them understand the concepts as well as passing on skills that her preceptors help her with.



Jennifer Tresler, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Kalispell, Montana and a 2002 graduate of The Skaggs School of Pharmacy at the University of Montana in Missoula. She completed the PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2002-2003. After completing her residency, she joined the clinical staff of the Phoenix VA as an acute care clinical pharmacy specialist covering both internal medicine and surgical ward patients. She was initially BCPS certified in 2005 and recertified most recently in 2012. In addition to serving as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents she is also a preceptor for pharmacy students in association with the University of Arizona School of Pharmacy and Creighton University School of Pharmacy. Jen enjoys spending time outside of work with family and friends. Her life is pretty consumed with raising 3 young children and the family golden retriever with her husband at the moment; but as time allows, she enjoys traveling, trying new adventures and foods, photo-taking and yoga.



Andrew Varker, PharmD, BCPS is originally from Orange County CA and a 2008 graduate of the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. He completed the PGY-1 Acute Care Focus Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2008-2009 and the PGY2 Internal Medicine Specialty Residency at the Phoenix VA from 2009-2010. In March 2011, he started full-time with the Phoenix VA as an Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist working directly with medical and intensive care unit teams. In late 2017, he transitioned to a newly developed position at the facility focusing in the areas of infectious disease and antimicrobial stewardship. Andrew serves as pharmacy champion to the antimicrobial stewardship program at facility as well as pharmacy representative for infection control. Andrew is a clinical preceptor through the University of Arizona in addition to precepting PGY1/PGY2 residents throughout the year. Outside of pharmacy, Andrew most enjoys his time with family/friends and is always up for a round of golf.



Eric Weber, PharmD, BCPS, FASHP is an Arizona native, graduating from the University of Arizona in 1995, completing a pharmacy practice residency in 1996, and gaining board certification in Pharmacotherapy in 1998. He's been a member of the clinical pharmacy team at the Phoenix VAHCS since 1997, currently practicing as a rural PACT CPS. Eric has enjoyed active involvement at the national and regional level of VA, serving on multiple workgroups and task forces. He was a charter member of the National Clinical Pharmacy Advisory Board (CPAB) and remains Secretary of the National Clinical Pharmacy Practice Council (NCPPC). He has served as a site visit consultant for VA, providing consultative reviews to several VA facilities nation-wide. He has advocated for Health System Pharmacy both nationally and at the state level, serving as the Arizona representative to the ASHP House of Delegates for 6 years as well as serving as the Maricopa District Director and the education director for the Arizona Society of Health System Pharmacy. He has several national publications and presentations, many on the topic of advanced practice technicians. Eric feels most at peace being active in the outdoors (most recently running or playing disc golf), and spending time with family and friends. Bucket list items include traveling to Easter Island, attending the Olympic Games, hiking the Arizona Trail, and retiring while still healthy enough to enjoy the extra time.



Dustin Whiteman, PharmD, BCPS is a 2002 graduate of Purdue University College of Pharmacy. Dustin completed the Pharmacy Practice Residency Program at the Phoenix VA in 2002-2003, and then joined the pharmacy team as a clinical pharmacist in Internal Medicine and Surgery. Dustin served as the Residency Program Director for the PGY1 Acute Care Focus Residency Program from 2005 – 2019. Dustin precepts pharmacy residents as well as students from the University of Arizona and Midwestern University – Glendale. Away from work, Dustin enjoys reading, traveling, spending time with friends and family, and watching sports and movies.
