



2023-2024 PHARMACY RESIDENTS



Choose VA
Choose Hines



Madison Collins

- ❖ **Hometown:** Normal, IL
- ❖ **Pre-pharmacy school(s) attended:** Heartland Community College & Illinois State University
- ❖ **College of Pharmacy:** University of Illinois at Chicago
- ❖ **What interested you about Hines:** The amazing people I worked with during my two APPE rotations here immediately sparked my interest in Hines! Also, having worked at another VA I was interested in working with the veteran population as well as gaining more experience in both ambulatory and inpatient care.
- ❖ **What Pharmacy interests do you have:** My main clinical interests include transplant and mental health, but I am also interested in organizational pharmacy such as ASHP and working on pharmacy policy and advocating for the pharmacy profession.
- ❖ **What interests do you have outside of pharmacy/what do you intend to do with free time in the Chicagoland area?** I love being active including playing beach volleyball, running by the lake and rock climbing. I also like crocheting, spending time with friends, and attending comedy or live music shows!
- ❖ **Contact information:** Madison.Collins@va.gov

Michelle Dierker

- ❖ **Hometown:** Canton, MI
- ❖ **Pre-pharmacy school(s) attended:** Michigan State University
- ❖ **College of Pharmacy:** Wayne State University
- ❖ **What interested you about Hines:** I was drawn to the VA system in general because of the unique opportunities to provide direct patient care and the degree of autonomy the pharmacist has to make clinical decisions. I have a passion for serving veterans because of veterans in my own family, so I knew I would have a fulfilling career within the VA! I was specifically interested in Hines VA because of the diverse veteran population in Chicago and strong inpatient rotations that would cater to my interests. I hoped to have a residency program that was designed to emphasize resident well-being and provide me with a great support system while I moved away from Michigan for the first time to further my education. The PGY1 program at Hines has met all my wishes and I am excited to see how I grow in the next year!
- ❖ **What Pharmacy interests do you have:** Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Infectious Disease, Critical Care
- ❖ **What interests do you have outside of pharmacy/what do you intend to do with free time in the Chicagoland area?** I enjoy playing volleyball, being a foodie in the city, dog walking, and watching the Bachelor and Michigan State sports in my free time!
- ❖ **Contact information:** Michelle.Dierker@va.gov





Cassandra Isaacs

- ❖ **Hometown:** Libertyville, IL
- ❖ **Pre-pharmacy school(s) attended:** University of Wisconsin-Madison
- ❖ **College of Pharmacy:** University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy
- ❖ **What interested you about Hines:** The opportunity to participate in a wide variety of experiences in many different areas of pharmacy drew me to the Hines VA. I knew that having required and elective rotations offered in ambulatory care, internal medicine, geriatrics, and more at Hines would help me gain experience in areas of pharmacy I am unfamiliar with and become a well-rounded clinical pharmacist. The opportunity to participate in a teaching certificate program and have both formal and informal mentorship as a resident at Hines also interested me. I am also very excited and honored to be able to serve the veteran population.
- ❖ **What Pharmacy interests do you have:** Ambulatory Care, Primary Care
- ❖ **What interests do you have outside of pharmacy/what do you intend to do with free time in the Chicagoland area?** I enjoy reading, being outside, and spending time with family and friends. I am looking forward to going to farmers' markets this summer and trying new restaurants in the Chicagoland area.
- ❖ **Contact information:** Cassandra.Isaacs@va.gov



Justyna Mastalerz

- ❖ **Hometown:** Northwest side of Chicago, IL
- ❖ **Pre-pharmacy school(s) attended:** University of Illinois at Chicago
- ❖ **College of Pharmacy:** University of Illinois at Chicago
- ❖ **What interested you about Hines:** As a PGY1 pharmacy resident candidate, I was looking for a program that would broaden my clinical-decision making abilities and refine my literature evaluation and leadership skills. To strengthen these skillsets, I knew that I needed a program that would provide me with the opportunity to complete diverse interprofessional rotations. As someone who enjoys working in both inpatient and ambulatory care settings, I knew Hines VA would allow me to experience it all. Additionally, I had the opportunity to speak with Nick and the previous residents during Midyear and during my interview, where I learned more about the culture, patient population, and strong pharmacist presence at the Hines VA. This ultimately solidified my decision to pursue a residency at the Hines VA.
- ❖ **What Pharmacy interests do you have:** My preliminary interests include practicing in infectious diseases, general medicine, teaching, research, and dialysis. I mainly enjoy working in an inpatient setting, but I am also interested in exploring more ambulatory care rotations.
- ❖ **What interests do you have outside of pharmacy/what do you intend to do with free time in the Chicagoland area?:** I enjoy baking and/or trying out new recipes, walking my golden retriever, watching true crime documentaries, and anything related to DIY/crafting 😊
- ❖ **Contact information:** Justyna.Mastalerz@va.gov



Vallari Shah

- ❖ **Hometown:** Naperville, IL
- ❖ **Pre-pharmacy school(s) attended:** University of Illinois at Chicago
- ❖ **College of Pharmacy:** University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy
- ❖ **What interested you about Hines:** I became interested in Hines after completing my geriatrics rotation here as a P4 student. It was really inspiring to see the pharmacists proactively provide comprehensive care to the Veterans. It was great to see how Hines provides a variety of both ambulatory care and acute care experiences, where pharmacists practice at the top of their licenses. The staff and patients also strive to make it a welcoming environment. Hines was the perfect fit for me to pursue my career interests.
- ❖ **What Pharmacy interests do you have:** I am interested in geriatrics, internal medicine, and ambulatory care.
- ❖ **What interests do you have outside of pharmacy/what do you intend to do with free time in the Chicagoland area?:** In my free time, I enjoy drawing, painting, reading books, and watching the latest Marvel movies/TV shows. I also like playing board games, trying new boba and dessert restaurants, and playing badminton.
- ❖ **Contact information:** Vallari.Shah@va.gov

Ana Pranjic

- ❖ **Hometown:** River Grove, IL
- ❖ **Pre-pharmacy school(s) Attended:** University of Illinois at Chicago (B.S.)
- ❖ **College of Pharmacy:** Midwestern University – Downers Grove
- ❖ **What interested you about Hines:** I completed my PGY1 residency here and loved my experience. I wanted to practice at an institution that had strong acute care and ambulatory care programs, where pharmacists practice at the top of their license, and that was Hines for me. Hines is a place where I feel supported yet challenged and the people here make it all worthwhile. I ended up falling in love with the ID program here during my PGY1 year and am thrilled to be able to stay at Hines to complete my post-graduate training!
- ❖ **What Pharmacy interests do you have:** Antibiotic resistance, opportunistic infections, outpatient antimicrobial stewardship, transitions of care, emergency medicine
- ❖ **What interests do you have outside of pharmacy/what do you intend to do with free time in the Chicagoland area?** I like spending time with friends and family, going to concerts, and trying new restaurants in the Chicagoland area.
- ❖ **Contact information:** Ana.Pranjic@va.gov



PGY2 INFECTIOUS DISEASES
PHARMACY RESIDENT

Katarzyna (Kasia) Szaflarska

- ❖ **Hometown:** Born and raised in Poland; currently reside in Hickory Hills, IL
- ❖ **Pre-pharmacy school(s) Attended:** University of Illinois at Chicago (B.S.)
- ❖ **College of Pharmacy:** University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy
- ❖ **What interested you about Hines:** The people, the culture, and the veteran patient population! Having the opportunity to rotate at Hines during my APPE rotations, I was immediately drawn by the support, commitment to teaching, and mentorship Hines provides to its trainees while providing optimal care to our Nation's heroes in an innovative healthcare environment. I am confident the patients, my mentors, and innumerable opportunities at Hines will exponentiate my growth in becoming a well-rounded leader in clinical pharmacy.
- ❖ **What Pharmacy interests do you have:** Medication-use safety/policy, pharmacoeconomics, ambulatory care, clinical operations, and solid organ transplant.
- ❖ **What interests outside of pharmacy do you have/what do you intend to do with free time in the Chicagoland area?** I am a foodie and a coffee connoisseur! I have a running list of restaurants and coffee shops that I want to try and always welcome new recommendations! Otherwise, I enjoy adventurous activities, including hiking, biking, kayaking, and ATVing.
- ❖ **Contact information:** Katarzyna.Szaflarska@va.gov

PGY2 ADMINISTRATIVE
PHARMACY RESIDENT

