

# ***Minneapolis VA Health Care System (MVAHCS) PGY-2 Pain Management and Palliative Care Pharmacy Residency 2024-2025:***

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; functioning as a vital member of interdisciplinary teams that may include providers, 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, substance use disorder (SUD) services, palliative care & hospice, and outpatient pain management through our Comprehensive Pain Center. All teams are interprofessional and may include disciplines of nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupation therapy, mental health, peer support, social work, and more.

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 provides acute care services to psychiatry, spinal cord, neurology, surgery, cardiology, intensive care, and general internal medicine. There are also 100+ 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 opportunities to provide ongoing 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 clubs, 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 drug class review, monograph, or designing and implementing an orderset based on treatment guideline updates is also required during the year.

### Program Structure in 2024-2025

#### Required Learning Experiences

Area	Duration
Orientation	2-4 weeks
Palliative Care & Hospice	8 weeks
Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services	4 weeks
Inpatient Pain Management	4 weeks
Comprehensive Pain Center	12-15 weeks
Research & Project Management	Longitudinal (Administrative)
Professional Service	Longitudinal (Administrative)
Leadership, Quality & Management	Longitudinal: 3 x 1-week blocks throughout the residency year
Pain Management, Opioid Safety & PDMP (PMOP) and Pain Academic Detailing	Longitudinal (Clinical & Administrative)
Rural Health Primary Care Pain Management	Longitudinal (Clinical)
Palliative Care PLUS / Home Based Primary Care	Longitudinal (Clinical)

#### Elective Learning Experiences

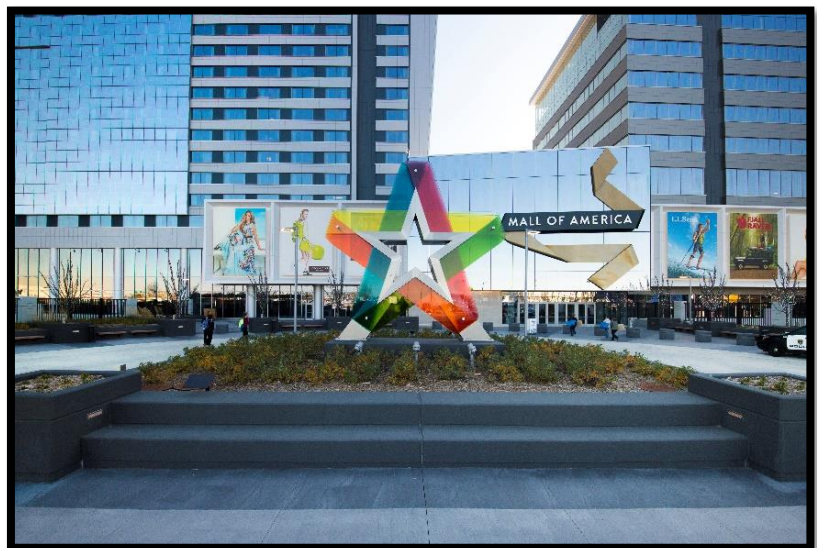
Area	Area
Spinal Cord Injury	Pain Management Long-Term Care CLC
Inpatient Psychiatry	Inpatient Traumatic Brain Injury / Stroke
Outpatient Mental Health	Women’s Health

\*Other elective learning experiences may be developed based on resident interest 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: 63055; NMS Code: 795473)***

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>, 2025
- 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 (preferably pain related, if available)

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/>

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

### **General Information:**

- Duration: 12 months
- Number of Positions: 2
- Starting Date: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Model Type: Teaching, Tertiary
- Estimated Stipend: \$55,675

### **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
- Educational leave for the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting OR Pain meeting of choice (must be presenting to attend)

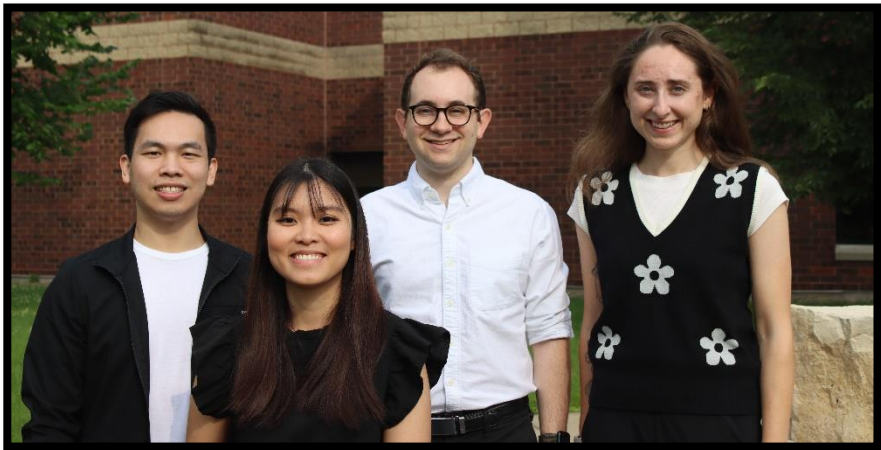


Pharmacy Residents



PGY-1 and PGY-2 Resident Class of 2024-2025

Top row: Mohamed Kamara, Minh Dinh, Karyssa Hurd, Priya Periakaruppan, Victoria Brooks, and Sammy Daas;  
Bottom row: Claudia Epland, Jacob Mozer, Hannah VanTruong and Steven Chen



2024-2025 PGY-2 Residents

From left to right: Steven Chen (Pain Management), Hannah VanTruong (Geriatrics), Jacob Mozer (Pain Management), and Claudia Epland (Mental Health)

PGY-1 Residents	PGY-2 Residents
Victoria Brooks Email: victoria.brooks2@va.gov	Jacob Mozer (Pain Management & Palliative Care) Email: jacob.mozer@va.gov
Sammy Daas Email: sammy.daas@va.gov	Steven Chen (Pain Management & Palliative Care) Email: steven.chen1@va.gov
Minh Khanh Ngoc Dinh Email: minhkhannhngoc.dinh@va.gov	Claudia Epland (Mental Health) Email: claudia.epland@va.gov
Karyssa Hurd Email: karyssa.hurd@va.gov	Hannah VanTruong (Geriatrics) Email: hannah.vantruong@va.gov
Mohamed Kamara Email: mohamed.kamara@va.gov	
Priya Periakaruppan Email: priya.periakaruppan@va.gov	



### ***Program Director***

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

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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.



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### **Congratulations 2023-2024 Resident Graduates:**

Top row (left to right): Leyla Rashid, Kyla Dickey

Bottom row (left to right):  
Alyssa Isola, Elizabeth Francis, Tasmiah Rahman, Hannah VanTruong, Claudia Epland, Kally Kvidera, and Jacob Mozer

