

Minneapolis VA Health Care System (MVAHCS)

PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program

This program has been designed to develop pharmacist 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 achieving board certification in psychiatric pharmacy and practicing in a variety 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 provides comprehensive psychiatric care. Services span a variety of settings, including an inpatient psychiatric unit, partial hospitalization program, intensive outpatient programming, intensive case management services, programming for people experiencing homelessness, and general outpatient services (locally and across all the community-based outpatient clinics). Additionally, outpatient specialty teams exist for Serious Mental Illness, Substance Use Disorders, Geriatric Psychiatry, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Mood Disorders, and Gender Dysphoria. Teams are interprofessional and may include disciplines of nursing, pharmacy, psychiatry, psychology, occupational therapy, recreational therapy, and peer support.

The PGY-2 resident will be established as a member of the Serious Mental Illness Team as part of their weekly longitudinal interprofessional experience (IPE). 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. Residents also have opportunities to participate in a variety of didactic experiences including DBT training, journal clubs, psychiatry grand rounds, and a PTSD lecture series, among others.

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). The inpatient psychiatric unit has 22 beds and is in the process of remodel and further expansion.

MVAHCS is affiliated with the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy and School of Medicine. PGY2 Residents may 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 include, but are not limited to in-service education, mental health grand rounds, journal club, and medication therapy cases. The PGY2 will care for patients in partnership with psychiatry residents and medical students on their inpatient psychiatry experience. A national teaching certificate program is available for those with interest.

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 and updates to a policy, protocol, or procedure is also required during the year as per ASHP requirements.

Required Rotations	Approximate Rotation Duration
Orientation	6 weeks
Research	2 weeks
Project Management	Longitudinal: 12 months; Project weeks throughout the year
Professional Services	Longitudinal: 12 months
Serious Mental Illness – 1, 2, 3, 4	Block Rotation and Longitudinal Interprofessional Experience
Inpatient Psychiatry	Block 1 – 4 weeks Block 2 – 4 weeks
Leadership, Quality, and Management - Psychiatric Pharmacy – 1, 2, 3	One-week blocks throughout the residency year
Addiction Recovery Services	5 weeks
Consult and Liaison Psychiatry	4 weeks
CBOC/Rural General Psychiatry	6 weeks

Elective Rotations*	Rotation Duration
Academia (University of Minnesota)	Longitudinal: 5 months, once weekly
Academic Detailing	4 weeks
Pain Management	4 weeks

**Additional elective opportunities can be created depending on the resident's areas of interest. We are currently exploring opportunities with the Pharmacogenomics Program, Intensive Community Mental Health Recovery program, and Partial Hospitalization Program, among others.*

PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Practice Residency Application Procedure (ASHP Code: 63025; NMS Code: 690666)

Applicants must be a graduate of an American Council of Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited School of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (PharmD). 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 interview is required for all applicants.

Application Requirements:

- Complete online application through PhORCAS
- All application materials must be submitted via PhORCAS by January 2nd of 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 (One reference must be from current RPD).
- Sample of written work from PGY-1 residency

Some of the criteria considered in choosing residents include knowledge of professional practice, communication skills, 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 Psychiatric Pharmacy Practice Residency General Information and Benefits

General Information:

- Duration: 12 months
- Number of Positions: 1
- Starting Date: June 30th, 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
-

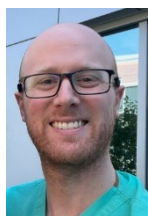
Pharmacy Residents



PGY-1 Residents Top row: Mohamed Kamara, Minh Dinh, Karyssa Hurd, Priya Periakaruppan, Victoria Brooks, and Sammy Daas; PGY-2 Residents Bottom row: Claudia Epland, Jacob Mozer, Hannah Vantruong, and Steven Chen

PGY-1 Residents	PGY-2 Residents
Victoria Brooks Email: Victoria.Brooks2@va.gov	Steven Chen Email: Steven.Chen1@va.gov
Sammy Daas Email: Sammy.Daas@va.gov	Claudia Epland Email: Claudia.Epland@va.gov
Minh Dinh Email: MinhKhanhNgoc.Dinh@va.gov	Jacob Mozer Email: Jacob.Mozer@va.gov
Karyssa Hurd Email: Karyssa.Hurd@va.gov	Hannah Vantruong Email: Hannah.Vantruong@va.gov
Mohamed Kamara Email: Mohamed.Kamara@va.gov	
Priya Periakaruppan Email: Priya.Periakaruppan@va.gov	

Program Director



Jacob Held, PharmD, BCPP
Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner
Minneapolis VA Health Care System
1 Veterans Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55417
Email: Jacob.Held@va.gov

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At the MVAHCS, 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.