

Resident Bios 2024 – 2025

PGY2 Ambulatory Care:

Nikki Fehrenbacher



Te'a Nicole Fehrenbacher or "Nikki" was born in Paducah, KY. She attended high school at Marshall County High School in Benton, KY and completed her pre-pharmacy coursework at the University of Louisville. Nikki moved to Lexington, KY to complete her pharmacy degree at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. In pharmacy school, Nikki was a member of the UK Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), Mindfulness in Newly Developing Students (MINDS), Future Pharmacists for Veterans (FP4V), Student College of Clinical Pharmacists, Kentucky Alliance of Pharmacy Students (KAPS), American Pharmacists Association (APhA, KPhA), American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP, KHP), and the Rho Chi Honor Society. Nikki completed her first year of post-graduate training at the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center. In her spare time, Nikki enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family, playing pickleball/tennis, running, and hiking. Nikki is excited to continue her pharmacy training at the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center as a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care resident.

Sydney Kingston



Sydney Kingston was born in Columbia, MD. She grew up in the St. Louis, MO area and spent her high school years in the Dallas, TX area. She attended high school at Wakeland High School in Frisco, TX and earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Memphis, where she also played for the women's soccer team. Sydney remained in Memphis to complete her pharmacy degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy. In pharmacy school, Sydney was a member of Phi Delta Chi, APhA-ASP, and Rho Chi. Sydney completed her first year of post-graduate training at the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, watching sports, and hanging out with her cats and dogs. Sydney is excited to continue her pharmacy training at the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center as a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care resident.

PGY2 Internal Medicine:

Julia Bommarito



Julia Dorothy Bommarito grew up in New Orleans, LA. A life-long resident of New Orleans, Julia attended Mount Carmel Academy and Loyola University before pharmacy school. Julia completed her pharmacy degree at Xavier University's College of Pharmacy in New Orleans, where she was awarded with the Xavier University College of Pharmacy Award for Excellence in Patient Care and Communication. Her pharmacy interests include ambulatory care as well as internal medicine— work that can connect her with her community. When Julia isn't spending time with her two cats Gus and Ollie, she loves to cook, tend to her house plants, do yoga, and watch reality television (The Real Housewives is her favorite). Julia is excited to keep exploring Memphis and growing her professional skills as she enters into her PGY2 in Internal Medicine.

Tori Bush



Victoria "Tori" Bush was born and raised in Indianola, MS. After graduating from Indianola Academy high school, she completed undergraduate prerequisites at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. Tori obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Doctor of Pharmacy from University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in Memphis, TN. In pharmacy school, Tori was a member of APhA-ASP and Kappa Psi fraternity. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking new recipes or baking desserts. She also loves spending time with her three nieces and nephew and watching them play sports. Tori is excited to continue her pharmacy training while serving Veterans at Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center as a PGY-2 Internal Medicine resident.

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

Larson Bridge



Larson Bridge was born and raised in Leland, MS. She attended Washington School in Greenville, MS and completed undergraduate prerequisites at Mississippi State University. Larson then attended the University of Tennessee Health Science Center where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees, as well as a Rural Health Certificate. She graduated UTHSC with high honors and was a member of Rho Chi Honor Society, APhA-ASP, and Kappa Psi fraternity where she served as fundraising chair. Larson also served on the College of Pharmacy Admissions Committee and worked as a pharmacy intern at Kroger Pharmacy throughout her time in pharmacy school. Her current pharmacy interests include ambulatory care and cardiology. In her spare time, Larson enjoys cheering on the Mississippi State Bulldogs, reading, and spending time with friends and family. Larson is excited to begin her pharmacy career at Memphis VAMC and be a part of the PGY1 residency program.

Claire Burbridge



Claire Burbridge was born and raised in Long Valley, New Jersey, moving to East Greenwich, Rhode Island when she was 12. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy and Masters of Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island, completing both degrees in 6 years. In pharmacy school, she was a member of Alpha Zeta Omega, Phi Lambda Sigma, AMCP, and other professional organizations. Outside of the college of pharmacy, she participated in Unified Basketball and Best Buddies. In her spare time, Claire enjoys reading, running, rock climbing, and yoga. She is excited to work at the VA in memory of her grandfather, a proud Navy veteran. Claire is honored to be a part of the VAMC Memphis residency program and is excited to begin her career as a pharmacist.

Jessie Gant



Jessie Gant was born in Cape Girardeau, MO. She completed her pre-pharmacy coursework at Mississippi State University before obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rural Health Certificate, and Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in Memphis, TN. In pharmacy school, Jessie was a member of APhA-ASP, Kappa Psi fraternity, Rho Chi, and Phi Lambda Sigma Honor Society. Jessie also served as the Honor Council President for the college. Her pharmacy interests include ambulatory care and rural healthcare – addressing barriers and expanding access to pharmacist services in her community. In her spare time, Jessie enjoys spending time with her friends and family, going to the lake, hiking, traveling, and listening to live music/attending concerts. She is honored to begin her career as a pharmacist at the VAMC Memphis Residency Program and is excited for the various experiences and knowledge she will gain over the course of the program.

Kadija Ibrahim



Kadija Ibrahim was born and raised in Memphis, TN and is the daughter of Ethiopian immigrants. She went to Houston High School in Germantown, TN. After high school she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from University of Memphis. She completed pharmacy school at University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy in Memphis, TN. During her time at UTHSC COP she was a part of APhA-ASP, SNPhA, and Rho Chi. Her current clinical interests include Cardiology and Internal Medicine. In her free time she enjoys running, baking, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. She is excited to complete a PGY-1 at the VA Medical Center in Memphis, TN.

Isabella Rubenstein



Isabella Elise Rubenstein was born and raised in Ocean Springs, MS. After graduating from Ocean Springs High School, she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemistry from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS. Isabella continued her education at William Carey University to earn her Doctor of Pharmacy. While in pharmacy school, Isabella was a member of the Rho Chi Honor Society, American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP), American Pharmacist Association- Academy of Student Pharmacist (APhA-ASP), Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), the Student Leadership Council (SLC), and served as a student in the mentorship program. Her current pharmacy interests include ambulatory care and infectious disease. In her spare time, Isabella enjoys spending time with her family and friends, exercising, and any activities on the water in Destin and at home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Excited to establish Memphis as her new home and delve into its offerings, she eagerly embarks on her professional journey as a pharmacist, feeling honored to join the VAMC Memphis residency program.

Carmela Ruiz



Carmela Ruiz was born and raised in Queens, NY. In high school, she explored a possible career in filmmaking at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Astoria, NY, but fell in love with pharmacy after attending the Pharmacy Summer Institute at the University at Buffalo. Carmela enrolled in the University at Buffalo PharmD Early Assurance Program then continued on at the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Buffalo, NY. During pharmacy school, Carmela was involved in several student organizations including the School of Pharmacy Student Association, Rho Chi, APhA-ASP, Phi Lambda Sigma, and SSHP. She is honored to have the opportunity to learn from the accomplished preceptors at the VAMC Memphis residency program and is incredibly excited to explore her interests in internal medicine, critical care, and emergency medicine.