School of Pharmacy Welcomes New Transplant Pharmacy Specialty Residency

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This year, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), welcomes the addition of the transplant pharmacy specialty residency to the Postgraduate Year 2 residency program. UPMC is known worldwide for its innovations in the field of transplantation. Since 1981, UPMC has performed over 12,000 transplants. Organs that are transplanted include kidney, liver, heart, heart-lung, pancreas, small bowel, single-lung, double-lung and multiple-organ transplants. Among many of UPMC’s distinctions are the use of breakthrough anti-rejection medications that prevent the patient’s body from rejecting the new organ and the research and development of new drugs that limit side effects and improve tolerability. Current research in immunology at UPMC is focusing on lowering the amount of immunosuppression for transplant patients and even avoiding immunosuppression altogether.

By Phyllis M. Chow, PharmD

The goal of the transplant pharmacy specialty residency at UPMC is to provide the resident a comprehensive experience in the management of transplant patients. The resident will have the opportunity to follow patients throughout the transplant experience from post-operative management to follow-up care at the ambulatory clinic. The transplant specialty resident will also gain knowledge into the pathophysiology of diseases leading to transplantation, immunosuppression management, therapeutic drug monitoring, and identifying drug interactions.

The residency offers the resident block core rotations in kidney, liver, and heart transplants. Elective opportunities include lung transplant, small bowel transplant, pediatric transplant, bone marrow transplant, transplant infectious disease, and research.

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.
See Meet the Class of 2008–09 for more information on the residents and their careers.
Shara Elrod, PharmD
PGY1: Community Care Pharmacy
UPMC Falk Pharmacy
Shara is from Pflugerville, Texas, and received her BS in biology from Texas A&M University. She then earned her PharmD at the University of Texas at Austin in 2008. One day, Shara would like to own a pharmacy. This desire led her to pursue a community pharmacy residency at UPMC Falk Pharmacy. Her outside interests include watching Dallas Cowboys football with her husband and running.

Lisa Harinstein, PharmD
PGY1: Pharmacy
UPMC St. Margaret
Lisa is from Pittsburgh, Pa., and received her PharmD from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in 2008. After her pharmacy residency at UPMC St. Margaret, Lisa plans to pursue a second-year specialty residency in either infectious disease or critical care. Lisa’s interests outside of pharmacy include spending time with family and friends, playing sports and being outdoors, shopping, and cooking.

Pamela Havrilla, PharmD
PGY2: Critical Care Pharmacy
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Pam graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. She completed her PGY1 residency here in 2008. She is excited to explore the world of critical care and gain additional experience teaching pharmacy students this year. Her goal is to become a critical care specialist and pharmacy school faculty member. Pam loves spending time with family and friends, watching the Pittsburgh Penguins, and baking cookies.

Allison Imhoff, PharmD,
PGY1: Pharmacy
UPMC Mercy
Allison is from Aliquippa, Pa., and received her PharmD in 2008 from Duquesne University. She chose a pharmacy residency at UPMC Mercy because the program offered 10-week rotations and had a long history of training clinical practitioners. She looks forward to remaining open-minded during her residency and strengthening her patient care skills. Outside of her residency, Pam enjoys traveling and Kappa Psi.

David Goodman, PharmD
PGY1: Pharmacy
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
David is originally from Bayside, N.Y., and received his PharmD from Albany College of Pharmacy in 2006. After spending two years working in retail pharmacy, he chose to complete a pharmacy residency to improve his clinical skills and widen his knowledge base. David is particularly interested in the area of geniatrics. In his free time, David enjoys playing basketball and watching sports.

Tiffany-Jade Kreys, PharmD
PGY2: Critical Care Pharmacy
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Tiffany is from Harrisburg, Pa., and received a BS in neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003. She received her PharmD from the University of Michigan in 2007 and then worked as a retail pharmacist for one year before pursuing her residency here. Tiffany’s practice interests include psychiatry and acupuncture. She enjoys spending time with her Chihuahua Yoko, her cat Lenni, and her husband Eugene.

Roman Gokhman, PharmD
PGY2: Cardiology Pharmacy
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Roman is from Philadelphia, Pa., where he received his PharmD from Temple University in 2007. He completed a PGY1 residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center with a focus in critical care. After this residency, Roman plans to pursue a clinical position with teaching responsibilities in a critical care setting. He enjoys skiing, playing and watching sports, and playing classical guitar.

Brandi Kennedy, PharmD
PGY1: Pharmacy
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Brandi was raised in Johnstown, Pa., and received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh in December of 2007. She is pursuing a pharmacy residency to enhance her patient care skills and she hopes to gain more clinical experience in the areas of oncology and ambulatory care. Outside of pharmacy, Brandi enjoys rafting, traveling, spending time with family and friends, and cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers!

Allison Gradisek, PharmD
PGY1: Pharmacy
UPMC Mercy
Allison is from Aliquippa, Pa., and received her PharmD in 2008 from Duquesne University. After her residency, she may consider pursuing a PGY2 residency or a fellowship. Allison is interested in academia, and hopes to gain some teaching experience during the year. When not working, Allison’s interests include spending time with friends and family, watching movies, listening to music, going out to dinner, and shopping.

Lisa Gradisek, PharmD
PGY1: Pharmacy
UPMC Mercy
Lisa is from Aliquippa, Pa., and received her PharmD in 2008 from Duquesne University. After her residency, she may consider pursuing a PGY2 residency or a fellowship. Allison is interested in academia, and hopes to gain some teaching experience during the year. When not working, Allison’s interests include spending time with friends and family, watching movies, listening to music, going out to dinner, and shopping.

Pamela Gradisek, PharmD
PGY1: Pharmacy
UPMC Mercy
Pam is from from Philadelphia, Pa., and received her PharmD from Duquesne College of Pharmacy in 2006. After spending two years working in retail pharmacy, she chose to complete a pharmacy residency to improve his clinical skills and widen his knowledge base. David is particularly interested in the area of geniatrics. In his free time, David enjoys playing basketball and watching sports.

Avita Johnson, PharmD
PGY1: Managed Care Pharmacy
CVS Caremark
Avita is from Chicago, Ill. She received her BS in biology in 2003 and her PharmD in 2008, both from Xavier University. Avita became interested in managed care after completing her first institutional rotation. She is looking forward to gaining the knowledge and experience needed to excel in managed care. Avita enjoys reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends, and trying new restaurants.

Stacey Lavsa, PharmD
PGY2: Drug Information
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Stacey is from Blaineville, Pa., and received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. She completed her PGY1 residency here in 2008. Her areas of interest include drug information and drug use management. Stacey plans to pursue a faculty position that involves drug policy development, research, and teaching. She enjoys spending time with her friends, gardening, bowling, and watching Pitt men’s basketball.

Van-Anh Le, PharmD
PGY1: Pharmacy
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Van-Anh is originally from Houston, Texas, and earned her PharmD from the University of Houston in 2008. She chose to pursue a pharmacy residency at UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside because of her interest in solid organ transplant and the variety of other rotations offered by the program. In her free time, Van-Anh enjoys traveling, exploring Pittsburgh, and playing board games with friends.

Stacey is from Blaineville, Pa., and received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. She completed her PGY1 residency here in 2008. Her areas of interest include drug information and drug use management. Stacey plans to pursue a faculty position that involves drug policy development, research, and teaching. She enjoys spending time with her friends, gardening, bowling, and watching Pitt men’s basketball.

John Martello, PharmD
PGY1: Pharmacy
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Jay is originally from Millin, Pa., and earned his PharmD from Duquesne University in 2008. During college, Jay developed an interest in education and in further developing his clinical pharmacy skills. He plans to pursue a PGY2 residency and ultimately a faculty position that includes teaching and pharmacy practice. Jay’s other interests include computers, music, cooking and baking, writing, and outdoor activities.
Residents’ Roar

Fall 2008

Managed Care Pharmacy
(CVS Caremark)
Ryan Steadman
Clinical Account Manager
CVS Caremark
Cincinnati, Ohio

Managed Care Pharmacy (UPMC Health Plan)
Jocelyn Diehl
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
UPMC Health Plan
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Pharmacy (UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside)
Parmeila Howitt
PGY1: Critical Care Pharmacy
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Whitney Hung
PGY1: Infectious Diseases Pharmacy
Tufis Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts

Asma Lat
PGY1: Infectious Diseases Pharmacy
South Texas VA and the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, Texas

Stacey Lavisa
PGY1: Drug Information
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Joedell Gorazgo
Pharmacy Informatics Supervisor
Allegheny General Hospital
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Katie McMillen
Pharmacy Operations Manager
UPMC Presbyterian
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Katherine Sullivan
PGY1: Family Medicine
UPMC St. Margaret
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Pharmacy (Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System)
Laura Jankovicz Domanio
Staff and Clinical Pharmacist
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Laura Krueger
Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Erin Suhrie
PGY1: Palliative care/Pain management
University of Maryland
Baltimore, Maryland

Pharmacy Management
Benjamin Anderson
PGY1: Pharmacy Management
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Professional Updates

Nicole Amarti (‘99) received the Preceptor of the Year Award from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2008. She also received the Vice President’s Management Cabinet Award from Pfizer, which recognizes top achievers in her division.

William Bailey (‘93) was recognized by Daichi Sankyo, Inc., with the Outstanding Vision Award in 2007. He was recognized for his novel scientific discovery and subsequent work that led to the recent FDA approval of celecoxib HCl (Celebrex), a bile acid sequestrant, for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Bile acid sequestrants have been primarily targeted for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia.

Brenda Castigliano (‘98), is now senior manager, External Scientific Affairs, at Forest Research Institute.

Melissa (Crouthamel) Crawford (‘99) has a new position with the Primary Care Department at the Ashtown VA as a clinical pharmacy specialist.

Christina (Schroder) DeReemer (‘03, ‘04) was awarded the 2007–2008 Preceptor of the Year Award from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy.

Catherine (Eckard) Dormann (‘01) is now associate director in promotion compliance with Bristol Myers Squibb.

Jonathan Ference (‘04) is now assistant professor at the Nesbuck College of Pharmacy and Nursing, Wilkes University.

Lauren (Velty) George (‘06) is now a clinical pharmacist at the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa, FL.

Patrick Gleason (‘94) has been promoted to adjunct associate professor, University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy.

Laura (Lettenmeyer) Jung (‘04) is still enjoying both her career as a medical writer with Syntaxa Communications, Inc., and her two children, Ethan (4) and Taylor (2). She has been with Syntaxa for four years.

Julie (Kuhn) Legal (‘04), director of the University of Pittsburgh Managed Care Pharmacy residency at CVS Caremark, is pleased that her residency program received accreditation through ASHP and AMCP in 2008.

Sarah (Zajko) Marche (‘01) is recently promoted to manager, Manufacturer Relations, at Highmark Inc.

Michelle McCarthy (‘95) has been appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Commission on Credentialing. Additionally, she was named the 2008 recipient of the Louis P. Jeffrey Award for distinguished service to the profession and commitment to residency training.

Lindsay Paulovicz (‘07) completed her PGY2 Critical Care residency and is now assistant professor of clinical pharmacy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Anna Perel (‘99), following the PharmCare merger with Caremark, is now a clinical pharmacist in the Clinical Programs Oversight Department at CVS Caremark.

Jason Pogue (‘07) completed his PGY2 Infectious Diseases residency and is now a clinical specialist in infectious diseases at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit, Mich.

Patricia Saunders (‘06) recently started a new position as clinical pharmacy supervisor, Infectious Diseases at The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

Aaron Steffenhagen (‘02) was promoted to senior clinical pharmacist in the Emergency Department at University of Pittsburgh Hospital and Clinics in March 2008. In August, he was selected as a participant for the IPA-FPSW (Iowa Pharmacy Association/Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin) 20th Annual Pharmacy Leadership Conference.

Rabin Thomas (‘01) is a clinical pharmacist at Deseretone Hospital in Oklahoma City and is enjoying his son, Austin Robin Thomas, who is two years old.

Damyen (Castenhania) Torres (‘99) was recently promoted to associate clinical professor at the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, St. John’s University.

Molly (Engelt) Wallback (‘05) became a Certified Diabetes Educator in 2007.

Newly BCPs certified in 2007: Christina (Schroder) DeReemer (‘03, ‘04), Bonnie Falcone (‘05), Jason Pogue (‘07), Radhika Polisetty (‘07, ‘08).

Alumni Updates

Future Residents:

Ava Jane, born on April 16, 2008
daugher of Jim Counts (‘03)

son of Melissa (Crouthamel) Crawford (‘99)

Alexander James, born March 5, 2008
son of Amy (Calabrese) Donihi (‘99)

Graham Martin, born on July 9, 2008
son of Justine (Shuler) Gortney (‘00)

Abigail (Abby) Jo, born on January 31, 2008
daughter of Ed Horn (‘03)

Macy Ann and John Bradley, born October 8, 2007
twins of Pamela (Hucko) Koerner (‘00)

Joseph (Joe) Salvatore, born October 12, 2008
daughter of Melissa (Sorma) McGinnery (‘99)

Anna, born November 21, 2007
daughter of Bethany (Healey) O’Toole (‘07)

Kaitlyn Elizabeth, born May 10, 2007
daughter of Rebecca Rork (‘03)

Gavin Lawrence, born October 24, 2007
daughter of Heather (Kudis) Sakey (‘05)

Andrea Ellis, born October 4, 2007
daughter of Simone Taylor (‘99)

Sarah Elizabeth, born November 4, 2006; Emma Grace, born May 2, 2008
daughters of Damyen (Castenhania) Torres (‘99)

John Michael Jr., born September 1, 2007
daughter of J. Michael Varricchio (‘03)

Newly Wed:

Megan Balkell (‘08) and Erin Sanchez on August 2, 2008

Neta Benedict (‘05) and Melissa Ramos-Davis on September 5, 2008

Lauren Reid (‘77, ‘08) and Damien Jonkman on November 11, 2006

Timothy George (‘05, ‘06) and Lauren Velty (‘06) on November 10, 2007

Laura Janikovicz (‘08) and Nicholas Damiano on June 9, 2007

Stacey Lavisa (‘08, ‘09) and Nicholas Sobocinski on November 10, 2007

Jeanette Yoder (‘06) and Gregory Krenzer on May 10, 2008

Residents’ Roar

Fall 2008

Where Are They Now?
Residency Class of 2007–08

Cardiology Pharmacy
Erik Abel
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Specialist
Pharmacy
The Ohio State University
Medical Center
Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital
Columbus, Ohio

Community Care Pharmacy
Gladiis Garcia
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Stephanie Harriman
Rice Care Pharmacist
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Critical Care Pharmacy
Daniel Ford
Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Critical Care Pharmacy
Christopher Woroniewski
Assistant Professor
South Carolina College of Pharmacy
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

Family Medicine
Lauren (Fields) Jonkman
Clinical Pharmacist
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Infectious Diseases Pharmacy
Rachida Polisetty
Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacist
Hahnemann University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Recent Publications by Resident Alumni:

There were many of us in previous publications in the past year. Due to space restraints, we cannot print them all here, but we will be listing them on the resident webpage.

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