MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Bethany Abrahams, PharmD, ACME Sav-On Pharmacies, PGY1, Community Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5 to 10 years, I hope to be working in a position that allows me to help patients engage in their care and focuses on improving health outcomes. I would like to be actively involved in precepting pharmacy students and serve as a mentor for new practitioners.

Project/Research Question: My research will focus on the impact community pharmacists can have in improving the care of ageing adults requiring the assistance of a family caregiver. I hope to identify the barriers caregivers face and possible interventions pharmacists can facilitate.

David Adams, PharmD, Abington Hospital-Jefferson Health, PGY2, Infectious Disease

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My vision is to become a clinical specialist in infectious diseases pharmacy practice with the hope to become involved in academia later in my career.

Project/ Research Question: I plan to evaluate the impact of a pharmacist-managed aminoglycoside protocol in the ICU, as well as the impact of utilizing extended-infusion beta-lactams on patient outcomes.

Seth Amidon, PharmD, Duquesne University-Center for Pharmacy Care, PGY1, Community Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: As a pharmacist, I hope to work in an outpatient ambulatory care setting or a community pharmacy with opportunities to provide clinical services to patients in need of healthcare. I hope to establish a strong connection with my patients and really encourage them to take control of their health.

Project/ Research Question: During my residency, I plan to conduct a research project in which I will assess patients’ use of proton-pump inhibitors and provide education to both patients and providers about proton-pump inhibitor treatment in various populations.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Gina Ayers, PharmD, UPMC St. Margaret, PGY2, Geriatric

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: After completion of my PGY-2 Geriatric Residency at UPMC St. Margaret, I envision myself providing direct patient care to older adults in a geriatric-focused outpatient clinic or skilled/assisted living facility. Ideally, I would also serve as a preceptor to pharmacy students and pharmacy residents and be involved in teaching medical students and medical residents.

Project/Research Question: My research is going to focus on the area of de-prescribing. There is scant literature surrounding this topic. I hope to contribute to the literature to improve patient outcomes and the quality of life for older adults.

Binki Baxi, PharmD, Wilkes Barre VAMC, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I hope to working at a job where I am excited to go to work every day. I would either like to work in mental health or ambulatory care setting. I enjoy being able to build a one on one relationship with the patient, and being able to follow them through the process of obtaining the best medical care possible.

Project/Research Question: My research project will consist of looking at patients who should receiving naltrexone injection for alcohol dependence. This project will follow the patient through the difficulties of being sober, and show how naltrexone injection can help with sobriety.

Emily Bobrzynski, PharmD, UPMC St. Margaret, PGY1, Geriatric Medicine

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In the future, I plan to be a clinical pharmacist on an interprofessional team. I envision my practice to be geriatric-focused, either inpatient or outpatient. I would also like to work in a teaching role as a pharmacy preceptor.

Project/Research Question: I plan to study the effects of MTM services in a skilled nursing facility population. I would like to investigate the impact of pharmacist-led CMR/TMR services on medication spend, ER admissions, and hospitalizations.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Megan L. Bookser, PharmD, Duquesne University/Preferred Primary Care Physicians, PGY2, Ambulatory Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My goal as a pharmacist is to provide education and build lasting relationships as a healthcare provider. I plan to seek board certification and obtain a clinical position in an ambulatory care setting. Additionally, I hope to precept and mentor pharmacy students and continue to expand the practice of pharmacy.

Project/Research Question: I intend to research the impact of pharmacist-guided inhaler training in a primary care practice setting for patients with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. My research outcomes as a result of this intervention will focus on appropriateness of therapy, medication adherence, and symptom management and disease control.

Jeannette Bouchard, PharmD, UPMC-Shadyside, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: After completing my PGY-1 residency, I hope to continue to complete a PGY-2 in Infectious Diseases (ID). My interests in ID span as wide as possible however I enjoy being involved in research and practice that emphasize public health efforts. In my future, I anticipate having a career that allows me to always educate and help build the next generation of pharmacists while balancing my own practice.

Project/Research Question: I will be assessing the indications for urine culture ordering in the emergency room and if it has an impact on the appropriateness of antimicrobial prescribing at my facility.

Laura Marie Brickett, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY2, Critical Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I envision working at an academic teaching institution as a critical care pharmacist, conducting clinical research, and serving as an adjunct professor at a school of pharmacy. My goal is to become an excellent mentor to students, in the classroom and clinical practice, to inspire them to pursue their passions.

Project/Research Question: We plan to study how pharmacist-driven education impacts outcomes with the use of intermittent dosing over continuous infusion as the initial sedative/analgesic medication administration strategy for intubated patients in the trauma and medical intensive care units.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Judah Brown, PharmD, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, PGY1, Pharmacy Residency

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In 5 to 10 years, I would envision myself in the acute care setting practicing with a focus on critical care. Because teaching is a passion of mine, I foresee precepting pharmacy students while on rotation, instilling hands-on learning in the next generation of rising pharmacists.

**Project/ Research Question:** While my project is not finalized, I plan on researching pharmacist driven vitamin B12 supplementation protocol and its effects on the development of anemia in the hospital’s patient population. The project will assess underrepresented patients with limited access to OTC medications and the pharmacist’s ability to decrease morbidity through vitamin repletion.

Sarah Brozena, PharmD, Geisinger Medical Center, PGY1

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In the near future, I envision myself as a successful clinical pharmacist at a large medical center. I have experience in multiple specialty areas and have the opportunity to mentor current pharmacy students and residents.

**Project/Research Question:** My research project will look at how pharmacist intervention programs affect 30 days readmission rates for patients post STEMI. Specifically, I will look at how antiplatelet beside delivery affects readmission rates in this patient population.

Taylor Buck, PharmD, University of Pittsburgh/Asti’s South Hills Pharmacy

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** My goal is to develop and implement patient care services within community settings as a collaborative member of the healthcare team. I plan to become involved in teaching and mentoring future student pharmacists as they contribute to advancing our profession.

**Project/ Research Question:** We will be exploring patient perceptions after having a comprehensive medication review with a pharmacist who is participating in the Pennsylvania Pharmacist’s Care Network at Asti’s Pharmacy. We will further uncover additional pharmacy and non-pharmacy related services recommended to these patients.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Courtney Calamia, PharmD, Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I’m currently trying to narrow down what area of pharmacy I plan to specialize in. Some of my current interests include ambulatory care, mental health and infectious disease.

Project/ Research Question: My project will focus on medication management in patients prescribed insulin with the primary outcome being a change in A1C in an pharmacist run MTM clinic compared to the change in A1C under the care of a endocrinology focused Nurse Practitioner.

Megan Carr, PharmD, UPMC St. Margaret, PGY2, Geriatrics

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I plan to pursue a faculty position where I can continue my passion for both geriatric care and educational research. In 10 years, I hope I will be continuing to advocate for the pharmacy profession, as well as to develop new curriculums and opportunities for interprofessional learners.

Project/ Research Question: I will be developing and measuring the impact of a deprescribing curriculum on family medicine physician residents’ knowledge of deprescribing processes.

Gregory Caspero, PharmD, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, PGY1, Acute Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I see myself practicing in an ambulatory care setting focusing on caring for patients suffering from various chronic disease states. I enjoy providing education to patients on their disease states and work with them to try and solve their medication related problems.

Project/ Research Question: My research project has not been finalized; however, I would like to focus on pharmacotherapeutic outcomes in patients who receive pharmacogenomics testing for warfarin, clopidogrel, or simvastatin.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Hannah Cawoski, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY1, Pharmacy Residency- Acute Care Focus

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I hope to become a pain and palliative care pharmacist and make an impact in a pharmacy organization. I also hope to become a preceptor or teach in some fashion.

Project/Research Question: How effective and safe is the “migraine cocktail” in reducing symptoms of patients admitted to Allegheny General Hospital for acute migraine headaches?

Derek Chiu, PharmD, Pennsylvania Hospital, PGY1, Pharmacy Residency

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: Within 5-10 years, I envision myself practicing within an institution where I can balance direct patient care and staffing responsibilities. As a pharmacist, I feel it’s important to apply what you’re practicing so being able to do both staffing responsibilities and provide direct patient care will allow me to learn continuously as a professional.

Project/Research Question: The discharge transition of care phase is one of the most difficult times for patients. With a meds to bed program, we can ensure patients get their medications with full education prior to leaving the hospital to ease their transition back to normal life. My research aims to see if Pennsylvania Hospital’s meds to beds program reduces readmission rates.

Christian Cho, PharmD, Reading Health System, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In my 5-year professional plan, I envision myself working in the world of academia as a specialist in infectious diseases. I look forward to conducting research in infectious diseases and having the opportunity to mentor pharmacy students.

Project/Research Question: I intend to conduct this year’s research project in seeing how the effects of implementing an antimicrobial order set panel effect prescribing habits in the emergency department.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

**Katherine Cho, PharmD,** University of Pittsburgh/ Rite Aid, **PGY1**, Community Pharmacy

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I envision working to expand and refine the range of pharmacist patient care services provided in the community. I plan to gain experience in the design and implementation of collaborative clinical pharmacist services in the community.

**Project/ Research Question:** I plan to conduct research in process implementation or improvements that will help pharmacists support patient and provider needs when caring for populations at a high-risk for low health outcomes. Additionally, I have specific research interests in the areas of: HIV, Hepatitis C, pain & palliative care, and underserved populations.

**Colton Collier, PharmD,** Allegheny General Hospital, **PGY1**, Pharmacy Resident-Acute Care Focus

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I plan to complete a PGY2 in critical care or emergency medicine. Following this I would like to help teach future pharmacists. To do this I would either like to become a professor at a university associated with a medical center or by precepting students at my practice site.

**Project/ Research Question:** Assess continuation of opioids when patients are transferred or discharged from a medical intensive care unit.

**Ardis Copenhaver, MS, PharmD,** UPMC St Margaret, **PGY2**, Ambulatory Care/Family Medicine

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I look forward to pursuing a career in clinical education, while serving a family medicine outpatient practice. In addition, I want to continue to promote the profession through professional organizations (e.g. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and Society for Teachers of Family Medicine), state level, and local community involvement to ensure the growth and progression of pharmacy practice.

**Project/Research Question:** The goal of my research is to evaluate prescribing practices of family medicine residents for treatment of COPD based on whether spirometry was completed prior to receiving or continuing treatment of COPD. A retrospective review of patients with COPD will determine whether patients are prescribed COPD treatment based on GOLD guidelines for management of COPD.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Megan Elizabeth Cunningham, PharmD, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My current future goals include a potential PGY2 in critical care, ambulatory care or possibly palliative care. After that, I would like to have a position that is affiliated with a university and teach while also practicing in a clinical setting.

Project/ Research Question: My research project is not quite set in stone yet, but as of now, it involves monitoring Lovenox dosing and anti-Xa levels in pregnant patients.

Michael Czupryn, PharmD, Temple University, PGY2, Internal Medicine

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My vision is to become a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist practicing as an Internal medicine specialist rounding in a hospital setting and to simultaneously hold a faculty position within a college of pharmacy.

Project/ Research Question: This year I will be analyzing the use of DOAC’s for non-approved indications with a focus on DOAC use in antiphospholipid syndrome and apixiban use in ESRD patients on dialysis.

Dharati Desai, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY2, Critical Care Pharmacy Resident

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I aspire to practice as a board-certified clinical pharmacy specialist in an ICU or emergency medicine setting where I can divide my time between patient care and precepting students and residents. While making valuable contribution in patient care, I hope to get involved in research at my practice site.

Project/ Research Question: Use of Rifampin as an adjunctive antimicrobial therapy for gram positive infections at the driveline site in patients with left ventricular assist device.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Anupama Divakaruni, PharmD, Geisinger Medical Center, PGY2, Oncology

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In the next 5 to 10 years, I hope to complete my PGY2 residency training in oncology, and start my practice as a Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist. My practice vision consists of a hybrid of inpatient oncology and oral chemotherapy MTM. I would also like to establish an academic affiliation with a school of pharmacy, and assume administrative roles such as a clinical coordinator.

Project/ Research Question: I will be investigating the incidence of hyperglycemia due to steroid preparations with taxane therapy. This will be followed by implementation of management strategies for patients that experience or are at high risk of glucocorticoid-induced hyperglycemia.

Katie Doong, PharmD, University of Pittsburgh/Giant Eagle, PGY1, Community Pharmacy Residency

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My goal is to develop and implement patient-centered clinical programs in the community setting as a clinical community pharmacist with a faculty appointment.

Project/ Research Question: We will explore the role of community pharmacists in clinical pharmacogenomic services in outpatient settings.

Megan Dunlop, PharmD, Duquesne University and Mainline Pharmacy, PGY1, Community Practice Residency

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I have a strong interest in unique community pharmacy services, such as MTM and point of care testing. I look forward to serving the community and learning more about independent pharmacy practice during my time as a resident this year!

Project/Research Question: As a student pharmacist, I conducted research on Barriers to Dispensing Naloxone in Community Pharmacies. As a resident, I would be interested in continuing research on combating opioid abuse, but am open to any research project that would have a positive impact on my residency site!
Virginia Edwards, PharmD, Abington Hospital-Jefferson Health, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5 to 10 years, I envision myself working as a critical care pharmacist in a teaching hospital where I have the opportunity to precept IPPE and APPE students. I desire to be part of an interdisciplinary team that works together to promote patient care.

Project/Research Question: To be determined.

Daniel Elliott, PharmD, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: After successful completion of my PGY1, I plan to complete a PGY2 in health-system pharmacy administration. Ultimately, I would like to obtain either an MBA or MHA, practice as a clinical pharmacist, and obtain a pharmacy manager position in a large health-system.

Project/Research Question: I have not yet finalized my research project, however, I intend for it to be focused on pharmacy administration.

Michee Casey Etienne, PharmD, Wilkes-Barre Veterans Affairs Medical Center, PGY1, Ambulatory Focused

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5-10 years I plan to establish an ambulatory care clinic for indigent patients, in order to optimize healthcare needs for those that cannot always afford proper care, nutrition, and those that need proper education.

Project/Research Question: I intend to study the observed effects of hemoglobin A1C lowering and side effect profile 3-6 months after initiation of SGLT2 inhibitors in patients seen at the VA medical center.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Emily L. Fargo, PharmD, UPMC St. Margaret Bloomfield-Garfield Family Health Center, PGY2, Ambulatory Care with emphasis in Family Medicine

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: Upon completion of residency, I hope to obtain a clinical pharmacist position in a family health center working as part of an interprofessional team to assist with improving patient outcomes through medication optimization and chronic disease state management while having many opportunities to teach medical and pharmacy learners.

Project/Research Question: My research topic is yet to be determined, but I am considering looking at impact of a pharmacist-led direct oral anticoagulant service on appropriate dosing, patient follow-up, and medication adherence in the outpatient setting.

Amanda Gerberich, PharmD, Lancaster General Health/ Penn Medicine, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5-10 years I hope to become a board certified clinical specialist in one of my areas of interest, pediatrics or infectious disease. Additionally I would like to use my clinical expertise to contribute as an author to a drug information database.

Project/ Research Question: For my residency project/research question I hope to examine the impact of treating asymptomatic bacteriuria in heart failure patients admitted to inpatient services.

Dennis Goodstein, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY1, Health System Pharmacy Administration

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: Following completion of this residency, I intend to pursue a job as a pharmacy operations manager or project manager. It is my hope to eventually move into a director role within a health-system pharmacy. My current interests are in operations, informatics, and medication safety.

Project/ Research Question: A Comparison of IV Workflow Management Systems and Their Outcomes on Medication Errors: What impact does the use of IV Workflow Management System have on the number of medication errors with IV products and the cost associated with those errors?
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Erica L. Gray, PharmD, UPMC Shadyside, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice
My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My mission is to utilize my previous experience through an industry post-doctoral fellowship in clinical development and current experience through residency to contribute to healthcare advancement through an advanced understanding of evidence-based medicine. My long-term goal is to obtain a clinical faculty position at a college of pharmacy and in collaboration with a health system
Project/Research Question: I plan to conduct a research project that analyzes the impact of pharmacist-led transitions of care on patients’ health outcomes.

Nicole Handlow, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY1, Ambulatory Focus
My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I am excited to work within an outpatient setting where I can provide direct patient-centered care daily. I am currently most interested in internal medicine, because I like the concept of being an expert on multiple chronic disease states and how to manage them. In the future, I would like to become BCACP certified and precept students.
Project/ Research Question: Percent changes in the dosing of warfarin in LVAD patients post implantation.

Samantha Hanna, PharmD, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, PGY1
My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5-10 years, I envision myself being a clinical pediatric pharmacist, potentially specializing in infectious disease. Ideally I will also be a shared faculty member at an accredited school of pharmacy, working to educate students on pediatric pharmacology.
Project/ Research Question: I am looking at whether a positive respiratory viral panel decreases the inappropriate use of empiric antibiotic therapy in infant patients who present with clinical signs of infection by providing evidence of viral cause of infection vs. bacterial cause.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Mahalia Harrell, PharmD, UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, PGY2, Ambulatory Care

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** After completing a PGY2 in ambulatory care at UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, I plan to practice in a primary care clinic managing chronic disease states. Additionally, I plan to obtain board certification in pharmacotherapy or ambulatory care. Lastly, I hope to participate in pharmacy education, leadership and advocacy.

**Project/ Research Question:** Areas of research interests include diabetes mellitus, cardiology, infectious disease, health literacy and the improvement of pharmacy practice.

Jennifer Ho, PharmD, Pennsylvania Hospital, PGY1

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I envision myself working in a Pharmacist-led practice that includes high level of patient care with an interdisciplinary team, working to provide patients with optimized therapies in one of my areas of interest which include ambulatory care, infectious disease, and internal medicine.

**Project/Research Question:** Pharmacist impact on anticoagulation and transitions of care – Does pharmacist intervention (follow up calls, additional counseling, etc.) improve anticoagulant use (decrease side effects, hospital re-admission rates, improve adherence)?

Michelle Howerton, PharmD, UPMC Presbyterian-Shadyside, PGY2, Geriatrics

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** After completion of my PGY-2 residency, I envision myself in a clinical position in either an inpatient or ambulatory care setting providing direct patient care to older adults. I hope to be able to combine clinical practice with mentoring and precepting of pharmacy students through an academic affiliation.

**Project/ Research Question:** I plan to evaluate the appropriateness of the current use of direct oral anticoagulants for elderly patients in the outpatient setting.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Emily Huneycutt, PharmD, Lebanon Veteran Affairs Medical Center, PGY1, General PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I envision my pharmacy career leading me to a very hands-on role in a patient’s medication care. I strive to help all patients understand the importance, benefits, and risk of their medications. I believe that allowing the patient to have an active role in their care will lead to better outcomes.

**Project/ Research Question:** Implementing a pharmacist-led program within population health to help decrease hospitalization and mortality. We will be using the Care Assessment Needs (CAN) index score to risk stratify patients at highest risk who need a pharmacist intervention.

Lindsey Jachim, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY1, Ambulatory Focus

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** My goal is to work in an outpatient setting where I can focus on chronic disease state management. I hope to utilize my patient care skills to interact with patients daily through counseling in order to help them understand their disease state and therapy options.

**Project/ Research Question:** My research project aims to look at the proportion of Allegheny General Hospital post kidney transplant patients who are currently not on statin therapy despite it being recommended in the KDIGO Guideline for Lipid Management in Chronic Kidney Disease.

Daniel Jenniches, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY2, Critical Care

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I hope to obtain a position as a clinical specialist in either an intensive care unit or emergency department setting. I want to be involved in direct patient care, implementing policies and procedures in the ICU setting, and precepting student pharmacists.

**Project/ Research Question:** At Allegheny General Hospital, two commonly utilized corticosteroid regimens for septic shock are: hydrocortisone 50 mg IV Q 6 hrs and 100 mg IV Q 8 hrs. This project aims to determine whether an alternative dose of stress-dose hydrocortisone affects clinical outcomes.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

**Paria Kalantari, PharmD**, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY1, Health System Pharmacy Administration

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I would like to be an operation manager of a hospital inpatient pharmacy and improve the quality of care for patients by different types of projects and team work.

**Project/ Research Question:** Decreasing number of cart-fill medications which are printed at night and increase the most common medications used on the floors in ADS.

**Namarta Kalia, PharmD**, St. Joseph Medical Center, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** My short term and long term goals are to complete my pharmacy practice PGY-1 residency, followed by a PGY-2 residency in ambulatory care. I also plan to become a Certified Diabetes Educator.

**Project/ Research Question:** Establishing the role of the pharmacist in the Patient-Centered Medical Home: Impact of pharmacist intervention on patient care.

**Jennifer Karabinos, PharmD**, Duquesne University/Giant Eagle Pharmacy, PGY1, Community Practice

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I hope to be practicing pharmacy in a role that is dynamic, where the expansive skill set of our pharmacy education is fully utilized. My goal is to help expand the patient perception of a pharmacist as a trusted healthcare provider that is readily accessible in their community.

**Project/ Research Question:** Providing immunization services is one of the greatest preventative health interventions in which pharmacists can play a direct role. I hope to investigate how pharmacists can increase immunization rates in their communities through effective patient history evaluations and high-level patient engagement during immunization administration sessions.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Hayley Kay, PharmD, Geisinger Medical Center, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I plan to become BCPS certified as soon as possible. I also would like to become a preceptor for both residents and pharmacy students. I also plan to move up in to a management position.

Project/ Research Question: I plan to pursue a research project looking at naloxone use in the emergency department at our hospital and determine if patients that are deemed to have had an opioid overdose were PCP or Pain Management managed for their chronic opioids.

Diane Kim, PharmD, Duquesne University The Center for Pharmacy Care, PGY1, Community

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I envision myself as a clinical pharmacist in an ambulatory care setting that is associated with a school of pharmacy. As a pharmacist, I want to build relationships with patients to help properly manage their medications, be a dependable resource for other healthcare professionals, and be a strong mentor to students such as my mentors were to me.

Project/ Research Question: I am looking to have my research project evaluate the impact of a pharmacist managing the medications and monitoring of outpatient disease states such as HIV or HCV.

Cynthia Kuntz, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY2, Ambulatory Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My pharmacy practice vision in the next 5 to 10 years of my career includes working as an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist in an outpatient clinic. I envision myself working closely with physicians and other members of the health care team to manage chronic disease states and improve patient outcomes.

Project/ Research Question: I will be analyzing the impact of a change in pharmacists provided services at an outpatient internal medicine clinic on hospital re-admissions and patient outcomes.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Richard LaCoursiere, PharmD, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In 5 to 10 years I hope to be practicing pediatric critical care pharmacy at an academic medical center where I will teach student pharmacists on rotation and/or in the classroom. I have had excellent mentors over the years and I look forward to the opportunity of paying it back.

**Project/ Research Question:** I plan to research pain management strategies for patients who are either actively struggling with opioid addiction and/or those who are in various stages of recovery. With the ongoing opioid epidemic growing worse every month, I am concerned that we may begin to undertreat legitimate pain in these patients.

Kristen Lopatofsky, PharmD, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In the future, I hope to obtain a clinical staff position in an area of clinical specialty after completing a PGY2. With this role, I would like to precept students and residents. Long term, I envision myself becoming a professor at an academic institution while continuing my involvement in state organizations.

**Project/ Research Question:**
For my research project, I will be completing an assessment of diabetic ketoacidosis treatment and the effectiveness of the system wide order set.

Jill Lykon, PharmD, Einstein Healthcare Network, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** My primary interest is in oncology and I intend to learn more about this evolving field during my PGY-1 residency. In the future I hope to be working as a clinical staff pharmacist and to become board certified in oncology, with potential to transition into a clinical specialist position.

**Project/ Research Question:** I will be assessing prescriber-initiated hyperglycemia management of patients on non-critical medicine floors.
Kevin Mahoney Jr., PharmD, Abington Jefferson Health, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I envision myself practicing as a clinical pharmacist specializing in infectious diseases working on an antimicrobial stewardship team. In addition to this I would like to give back to my profession through precepting students and advocating for the advancement of pharmacy practice.

Project/Research Question: Although plans for my project have not yet been finalized, I anticipate conducting a study related to the appropriate use of a clinical intervention and the subsequent effect on patient outcomes in an inpatient setting.

Dennis Marjoncu, PharmD, Geisinger Medical Center, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I envision myself working as an inpatient clinical pharmacist in an academic medical center focusing on either internal medicine, oncology, or transplant. I would also like to precept students and teach didactic courses at a school of pharmacy.

Project/Research Question: My research project will look at patient-reported symptoms secondary to chemotherapy via a validated grading scale and attempt to develop a tool that will determine the optimal point at which a pharmacist should intervene.

Laurence Martinez, PharmD, Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center, PGY2, Ambulatory Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My long-term career goal is to pursue an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist position with some aspect of teaching and contribute to the education of future pharmacists.

Project/Research Question: I intend to assess the impact of implementing insulin pump patient contracts on clinical outcomes and self-management.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Alex Matika, PharmD, Abington Hospital-Jefferson Health, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5-10 years, I envision myself as a clinical pharmacist at a large academic or community hospital rounding as part of an interdisciplinary team, possibly specializing in infectious disease or critical care. I plan on being a preceptor for a large number of students. I also plan on being involved in several committees such as antimicrobial stewardship, among others.

Project/ Research Question: I would like to conduct research which outlines how an antimicrobial stewardship program can influence the trends of antibacterial resistance as reflected by the antibiogram of the hospital.

Hannah Mazur, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY1, Acute Care Focus

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I plan to practice at a large teaching institution in the critical care setting. I hope to continue sharing my passion with future generations of pharmacists.

Project/ Research Question: My research project investigates the safety and efficacy of prothrombin complex concentrate (KCENTRA) compared to fresh frozen plasma used for emergent surgery.

Caitlin McHugh, PharmD, UPMC Mercy Hospital, PGY1, General, Acute Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: After this year of residency, I would love to specialize in an area such as critical care or trauma. I envision myself working as a main clinical pharmacist at a large academic teaching hospital. In 5 to 10 years, I hope I am embodying the importance of having a pharmacist on the acute care team.

Project/ Research Question: For my research project, I will be investigating if there is a higher incidence of tachycardia is greater in patients with septic shock who are already receiving norepinephrine when epinephrine is added or vasopressin is added to the regimen. Physicians at our health care center are hesitant to add epinephrine because of the fear of tachycardia, and are afraid to add vasopressin due to the cost. With this study, we are hoping to find a clear-cut answer on what should be added to norepinephrine if a second agent is needed.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Majid (Jay) Mirzai, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, PGY1, Managed Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: Due to the expanding role of a pharmacist, it is now an exciting time to be a part of this great profession. I not only envision myself as a healthcare professional involved in helping the community and the betterment of our profession, but also as a mentor to future pharmacists.

Project/ Research Question: I have a special interest in specialty medications which are developed for management of chronic, rare diseases in small populations of patients.

Hein Nguyen, PharmD, Lancaster General Health/ Penn Medicine, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5-10 years, I envision myself as a board certified geriatric pharmacist with a practice focused in the outpatient/ambulatory setting, working closely with an interdisciplinary team. I hope to precept student pharmacists and have opportunities to teach and learn about changes in pharmacy with them.

Project/ Research Question: I hope to research about the pharmacist role in the transitions of care process, incorporating both areas of outpatient and inpatient care. More specifically, I hope to look into patient risk factors for hospital readmission and in what ways pharmacist interventions could benefit patients at discharge within our institution.

Vu Phan Nguyen, PharmD, Moses Taylor Hospital, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5-10 years, I envision myself working as a clinical pharmacist in internal medicine at an academic medical center, where I can directly participate in patient care, precept and teach pharmacy students.

Project/ Research Question: Although my research topic is not finalized, I am considering a research project that focuses on patient adherence to the direct oral anticoagulants.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Kwabena Nimarko, PharmD, Hahnemann University Hospital, PGY1, Hospital

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In five to ten years, I would like to work as a board-certified clinical pharmacist in an internal medicine unit. I hope to precept students and be a member of a few patient care and quality improvement committees.

**Project/ Research Question:** The first research project will answer the question of can the benefits from the use of high-dose vitamin C, hydrocortisone, and thiamine in septic patients be translated to our hospital and other institutions? The second project will address the incidence of HIV-medication errors before and after pharmacist’s intervention.

Kyle O’Brien, PharmD, Lehigh Valley Health Network, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In 5 to 10 years I envision myself as a hospital clinical pharmacist or pharmacy manager that has been able to positively promote pharmacists among other healthcare providers and impact pharmacy practice in the hospital or institution I practice. I see myself continuing to expand the role of a pharmacist and help patients by implanting optimal medication therapy.

**Project/Research Question:** I intend to research the impact of transition of care from a hospital setting to outpatient setting.

Song Oh, PharmD, Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** Upon completing my residency, I envision myself working as a clinical pharmacist at an academic institution. I also would like to continue precepting pharmacy students and facilitate their professional development as my mentors did for me.

**Project/ Research Question:** My research project focuses on the safety of hypertonic saline administration. I would like to evaluate the current uses of 3% sodium chloride at Einstein and to develop a protocol that will establish the standardized infusion rate and route of administration.
Sumaiya M. Patel, PharmD, LECOM/Millcreek Community Hospital, PGY2, Geriatric Pharmacy

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5 to 10 years I envision myself practicing as a clinical pharmacy specialist in an ambulatory care clinic. I also see myself as a preceptor and part-time faculty in a pharmacy program. I also see myself in a leadership position in pharmacy organizations such as ASHP, APhA, ACCP, PPA, and MPA.

Project/Research Question:
I have two ideas and have not finalized yet. Pharmacist intervention in chronic care management (CCM) of patients with uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension at LECOM Institute of Successful Aging (LISA) clinic or Implementing antimicrobial stewardship program at the LECOM Senior Living Center (SLC).

Kenneth Paulish, PharmD, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: Throughout my clinical experiences, I valued the power of caring for patients and the most rewarding aspect was development of relationships. I envision myself working in an interdisciplinary team to provide high quality patient care. I have a passion for teaching, not only to educate patients but other healthcare professionals.

Project/Research Question: My project involves the implementation and assessment of a pharmacist driven heart failure medication optimization protocol, focusing on providing pharmacists with resources to improve evidence based medication use and developing a transition of care model for ambulatory care heart failure management.

Timothy Porter, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY1, Acute Care Focus

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5-10 years, I envision myself practicing in an academic medical center as a clinical pharmacy specialist in oncology. I wish to practice in a setting that allows me to incorporate experiential education into my clinical practice.

Project/Research Question: My research aims to assess differences in efficacy and toxicity between carboplatin AUC 6 every 3 weeks and carboplatin AUC 6 weekly in the neoadjuvant setting for triple negative breast cancer.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

**Daniel Powell, PharmD**, Allegheny General Hospital, **PGY1**, Acute Care Pharmacy Resident

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** Board certified oncology pharmacist working in the outpatient and inpatient setting while actively conducting and taking part in clinical research.

**Project/ Research Question:** Are direct oral anticoagulants as safe as low molecular weight heparin in active cancer patients being treated for VTE?

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**Jazmine Robertson, PharmD**, Duquesne University/ Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, **PGY1**, Community Pharmacy Practice with a focus in Specialty Pharmacy

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In the next 5 to 10 years, I envision myself working in a managed care setting helping patients with chronic conditions to manage their disease states through MTM and the development of clinical programs. Additionally, I see myself serving as a preceptor to pharmacy students.

**Project/ Research Question:** My research project will focus on measuring patient outcomes in the specialty pharmacy setting.

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**Stephanie Rusin, PharmD**, Reading Hospital, **PGY1**, Pharmacy Practice

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I plan on pursuing a PGY-2 next year, specializing in oncology or pediatrics. My long-term goal is to become a clinical pharmacist, focusing on the inpatient setting in either oncology, pediatrics or pediatric oncology. In addition to becoming a clinical pharmacist, I would like to precept pharmacy students and residents.

**Project/ Research Question:** I am currently working on a medication use evaluation regarding sugammadex in preparation for ASHP Midyear. Additionally, I am assessing the current use of PCA’s for pain management in preparation for a longitudinal research project regarding nursing and pharmacy education of PCA pumps in the role of pain management.
**MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!**

**Emily Schartner, PharmD**, UPMC Health Plan, **PGY1**, Managed Care

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In 5 – 10 years, I envision myself practicing within an integrated healthcare system as a clinical pharmacist in managed care. I hope to be practicing within my interests of formulary and utilization management. Also, I see myself pursuing a role in academia.

**Project/ Research Question:** I plan for my research project to involve a formulary analysis looking at the impact of moving higher cost generic medication to higher tiers specifically for the Medicare line of business.

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**Sunish Shah, PharmD**, Hahnemann University Hospital, **PGY1**, Hospital

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** I would like to pursue a career that provides emphasis on clinical pharmacy and mentorship. My current practice interests include critical care and antimicrobial stewardship.

**Project/ Research Question:** My projects include describing antimicrobial resistance patterns of Acinetobacter isolates in cystic fibrosis patients, evaluating outcomes associated with vancomycin resistant Enterococcus bacteremia stratified by daptomycin MIC, and evaluating clinical outcomes of patients treated with aztreonam compared to standard beta-lactam therapy for *Enterobacteriaceae* infections.

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**Casey Shultz, PharmD**, Moses Taylor Hospital, **PGY1**

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** My goal is to become board certified and pursue a career as a clinical pharmacist in an inpatient setting. I would like to work with other health care professionals as part of an interdisciplinary team to improve patient safety. I also hope to be a preceptor for students and residents.

**Project/ Research Question:** I plan to focus my research project on antimicrobial stewardship within Moses Taylor Hospital. I would like to analyze the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics in the Intensive Care Unit in order to assess the impact they have on patient outcomes.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Elizabeth Shober, PharmD, Lehigh Valley Health Network – Cedar Crest, PGY1, Hospital

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** In 5-10 years I envision myself being a clinical specialist in a teaching hospital. I have interests in critical care as well as pediatrics, so I would like to enter a position in either of those areas of practice.

**Project/Research Question:** My research project is going to look at the usage of antibiotics in pediatric patients with cystic fibrosis. This will mostly be an outpatient focus to get an idea of how often children with cystic fibrosis are being prescribed antibiotics and if those antibiotics are being used correctly.

Ryan J. Steiner, PharmD, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy/Cooper University Hospital, PGY2, Pharmacotherapy

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** My current areas of interest are internal medicine, infectious diseases, and critical care. In the future, I would like to work as a clinical specialist at an academic medical center where I will have the ability to work with students in some capacity.

**Project/Research Question:** My research project is not finalized at this time. Potential research topics include assessment of antibiotic stewardship program, analysis of transition of care services, and evaluation of the alcohol withdrawal protocol.

Dmitriy Sulik, PharmD, Pinnacle Health, PGY1

**My Pharmacy Practice Vision:** Being an integral part of a leadership team in which I can contribute my skills in advancing and promoting patient wellbeing.

**Project/ Research Question:** My research project will focus on using procalcitonin in de-escalating antibiotic therapy.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Victor Phan, PharmD, Acme Sav-on Pharmacy, PGY1, Community

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5 to 10 years, I envision myself as a community-based pharmacist practitioner and as faculty for a PharmD program. The ‘where’ is less of a concern, though I would prefer to be somewhere on the east coast near my family.

Project/Research Question: My research question will be focused on what pharmacy students think of community pharmacy and why. The trend I’ve seen in many schools is that students don’t think of community pharmacy as clinical and generally think lowly of it. I plan on changing that mindset as a future faculty member.

Neil Turco, PharmD, UPMC St. Margaret—New Kensington Family Health Center, PGY2, Ambulatory Care with emphasis in Family Medicine

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I aim to practice pharmacy in a patient-centered medical home, working both in a physician practice and in a hospital in the field of family medicine. I will share my passion for education with teaching both physicians and patients.

Project/Research Question: I plan to study hepatitis C treatment in the primary care setting.

Paolo Valerio, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY2, Health System Pharmacy Administration Resident

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: Short term, I see myself managing inpatient pharmacy operations in areas like sterile compounding, automation, and informatics. Alternatively, I am also interested in outpatient oncology management, specifically, in 340B drug utilization. Long term, I plan to leverage my skillset to position myself in an executive leadership position like a director of pharmacy.

Project/ Research Question: I aim to measure the impact in IV antibiotic administration times after implementing a process in the addition of standard stock IVs.
MEET PENNSYLVANIA’S 2017 – 2018 RESIDENTS!

Sara Walton, PharmD, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I plan to utilize my PGY1 residency to help determine if I would like to specialize and do a PGY2 residency or if I want to enter the workforce. I envision myself in a clinical position in an inpatient setting while also precepting for IPPE and APPE students.

Project/ Research Question: I will be assisting in performing a USP 800 Hospital Gap Analysis where I will be testing and analyzing our clean rooms to ensure our hospital is up to par for these new standards.

Tenielle Watkins, PharmD, Einstein Medical Center, PGY1, General PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My primary interests currently are in the areas of critical care and emergency medicine. I hope to continue to explore these areas during my PGY1 Residency and potentially specialize to eventually move into a clinical pharmacist role at a Level I Trauma Center.

Project/ Research Question: During my PGY1 Residency, I will be researching the incidence of adverse effects during therapeutic hypothermia to 36° post cardiac arrest.

Eric Rakazawski, PharmD, Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5-10 years, I would like to serve as a clinical pharmacy specialist in cardiology or internal medicine with a part-time faculty position for a school of pharmacy.

Project/Research Question: I hope to evaluate proper anticoagulation use and associated bleeding risks in a particular subset of patients at Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine.
Amanda Welk, PharmD, Allegheny General Hospital, PGY2, System Administration Resident

My Pharmacy Practice Resident: I envision that post residency I will be working in pharmacy leadership and management in one of the following areas: pharmacy regulations/public policy, education and training, informatics or medication safety.

Project/ Research Question: Evaluate medication reconciliation performed by pharmacy designees at Allegheny General Hospital for effectiveness and impact on patient safety.

Carrie Wilmer, PharmD, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, PGY1, Acute Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: In 5 to 10 years I envision myself working as an inpatient clinical pharmacist, hopefully within the VA Healthcare System as part of an internal medicine team. I would also like to work in the outpatient setting within various clinics offered to the veterans. Ultimately, I would prefer my scope of practice involve both inpatient and outpatient care.

Project/ Research Question: For my residency project, I intend to analyze patients with chronic atrial fibrillation who are on digoxin for rate control but not on a beta blocker or non-dihydropyridine calcium channel blocker to evaluate for absolute contraindications for this evidence based treatment. Based on this information I plan to intervene and discontinue the digoxin and initiate either a beta blocker or a non-dihydropyridine calcium channel blocker were appropriate.

Shayne Wharton, PharmD, Penn State Heath St. Joseph, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I hope to complete a PGY2 in Psychiatry after completion of my PGY1 residency. I believe psychiatry is an area where pharmacists can have a positive impact on patient care, because we encounter patients with behavioral health disorders in every aspect of pharmacy practice.

Project/ Research Question: I hope to conduct a research project utilizing the pharmacist to bridge the gap between primary care providers and behavioral health providers.
Sara Walton, PharmD, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, PGY1

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I plan to utilize my PGY1 residency to help determine if I would like to specialize and do a PGY2 residency or if I want to enter the workforce. I envision myself in a clinical position in an inpatient setting while also precepting for IPPE and APPE students.

Project/Research Question: I will be assisting in performing a USP 800 Hospital Gap Analysis where I will be testing and analyzing our clean rooms to ensure our hospital is up to par for these new standards.

Lisa Yamagishi, PharmD, Duquesne University/ St. Barnabas Health System, PGY1, Pharmacy Practice

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I plan on utilizing the clinical knowledge I have gained throughout my schooling, work, and residency to provide compassionate care to a population that may not be able to advocate for themselves, whether it be in long term care or in a hospital setting.

Project/Research Question: I plan to analyze the impact of implementing a program focusing on psychotropic drug use to reduce falls in a long-term care setting.

William Wilson, PharmD, UPMC Presbyterian-Shadyside, PGY2, Infectious Disease

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: My goal is to blend advanced level academic research with operational quality improvements to ensure that patients with infectious diseases are treated appropriately despite emerging MDR organisms and national drug shortages. A clinical role that can combine microbiologic, PK/PD, and operational expertise is my ideal practice.

Project/Research Question: Implementing unique prescriber tools to help guide appropriate empiric antibiotic recommendations as well as evaluating emerging treatments for recurrent *Clostridium difficile* infections.
Nicholas Ruzzi, PharmD, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, PGY1, Acute Care

My Pharmacy Practice Vision: I envision myself working for a VA facility in a primary care or other specialized outpatient setting, providing personalized care while connecting with them on a personal level.

Project/ Research Question: I plan to review empirical vancomycin use in the ICUs and evaluate the outcomes of mortality and renal function in patients who were given empirical therapy with vancomycin compared to patients who did not receive empirical vancomycin therapy.