



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA North Texas Health Care System



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

School of Pharmacy

**ASHP Accredited
Postgraduate Year Two (PGY-2)
Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program
VA North Texas Health Care System
Dallas, Texas**

Philosophy:

The Postgraduate Year 2 (PGY2) Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program at VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) in Dallas, Texas is designed to produce well rounded clinical practitioners in Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy. The resident is exposed to a wide range of patient care settings intended to provide a solid knowledge base of infectious disease states and optimum use of anti-infective therapies. The primary goal of the program is to foster the development of an independent, knowledgeable, and versatile practitioner through experiences in teaching, research, and professional activities.

General Description:

The 12-month program is based upon a variety of core, elective and longitudinal practice experiences designed to provide expertise and confidence in managing infectious disease states delineated in the ASHP Infectious Diseases PGY2 residency practice standards and an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at a future practice site. Resident will be able to manage patients in the ambulatory and inpatient setting and tailor their learning experience through elective rotations at affiliated sites with diverse patient populations.

Program Goals:

Clinical

- Implement and champion an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program as mandated by the Joint Commission standard and recommended by the Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Serve as a content expert in managing anti-infective therapies in both inpatient and outpatient setting
- Develop strategies for integrating into a multidisciplinary infectious diseases healthcare team

Academic

- Interpret and disseminate knowledge in infectious diseases pharmacotherapy
- Foster innovative and rewarding precepting strategies
- Generate new knowledge in infectious diseases pharmacotherapy through original research

Professional

- Cultivate techniques for self-assessment, goal setting, and career planning
- Demonstrate exemplary verbal and written communication skills
- Establish a personalized system for balancing multiple work-related responsibilities
- Understand the importance of professional development and lifelong learning

Program Activities:

Required Rotations/Experiences: (~70% time)

- Orientation
- Research
- Teaching
- Inpatient Infectious Diseases Consult Service
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Intensive Care Unit
- Liver Clinic (Hepatitis C)

Longitudinal Required Rotations: (~10% time)

- Infectious Diseases Clinic (HIV/HCV/PrEP) – 6 months longitudinal experience
- Antimicrobial Stewardship- Program development and management- 6 month longitudinal experience

Elective Rotation Options: (~20% time; i.e. 2, 1 month rotations)

- Elective rotation 1 (special populations/immunocompromised patients): UTSW Clements University Hospital, Parkland Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center
- Elective rotation 2:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Antibiotic Stewardship
 - Antimicrobial Stewardship (off-site) - Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital
 - Infectious Diseases Consult (off-site) - UTSW Clements University Hospital, Parkland Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center Elective; no duplicates*Other opportunities that may be possible include: VA PBM*

Teaching Opportunities:

Residents are appointed as Assistant Clinical Instructors with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy (TTUHSC). Teaching experiences for residents are designed to complement practice activities while allowing for multiple avenues of exposure.

- **Experiential Teaching** - Residents have the opportunity to independently precept IPPE (P3) and APPE (P4) clerkship students during the year.
- **Problem-Based Learning** - Residents have an opportunity to serve as a group facilitator for Clinical Correlations at TTUHSC. During the fall semester, this course meets twice

weekly in two hour blocks. This course is built around student-directed exercises which focus on pharmaceutical care plans for specific patients. It is designed to be a problem-based learning experience in which students are exposed to an initial patient presentation and spend the next 3 to 4 sessions developing their patient care plan. Both pathophysiology and therapeutic knowledge are incorporated in these activities. The facilitator's role is not necessary to directly instruct the students, but rather to facilitate their discussion.

- **Teaching and Learning Curriculum** - Conducted throughout the residency year, this program provides training for residents who are interested in developing their academic skills. The goal of the training program is to supplement a strong clinical background with the skills needed to become a successful educator. The program includes didactic and web-based teaching models, mentored facilitator training for small-group problem-based learning, and precepting of third and fourth-year pharmacy students. Option to obtain a teaching certificate is available through TTUHSC. Residents also receive instruction on grant writing, statistics, and clinical trial design; submit a project proposal to the institutional review board (IRB); and collect, interpret, and publish their results. The program also includes innovative discussion topics based upon needs previously identified by new faculty members. Examples include handling difficult students, writing test questions, developing consistent evaluation methods and balancing life outside of career.

Residency Project:

Residents will complete one original research project on topic related to infectious diseases pharmacy practice or antimicrobial stewardship and suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Residents will be responsible for protocol development and submission to IRB, as well as data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation.

Additional Opportunities:

- **ID Fellows Core Curriculum & Case Conference** - Weekly lecture series which includes seminars prepared by well-respected, local infectious diseases pharmacists and physicians.
- **Southwestern Leadership Conference (ALCALDE)** - Residents will participate in the regional residents meeting in the spring. Residents have the opportunity to present their project results for evaluation. It serves as an excellent opportunity to network with other residents from the region.
- Microbiology lab experience (1/2 day for 2 weeks during Infectious Diseases Consult 1)
- Prepare a drug monograph on an anti-infective agent for the National Pharmacy Benefit Management Service.

Salary and Benefits:

The Stipend for one year is approximately \$47,000. Benefits include health insurance, 10 paid federal holidays, 13 paid vacation days, 13 paid sick days, up to 10 paid professional leave days for meetings and VA job interviews.

Duty hours are 0800–1630; no weekend or federal holiday coverage for residency training or moonlighting required.

Additionally, Texas has no state income tax!

Site Special Features:

VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) is the second largest VA in the country. With headquarters at Dallas VA Medical Center, other facilities include Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, Fort Worth VA Outpatient Clinic, Tyler VA Primary Care Clinic, Plano VA Primary Care Clinic, one annex clinic, and five community-based outpatient clinic locations in Decatur, Denton, Granbury, Greenville and Sherman. Dallas VA Medical Center offers primary care and multiple specialty services. In addition to a large inpatient setting including the ICUs, there is also a Spinal Cord Injury Center and a Community Living Center with a dedicated hospice unit. Pharmacy services include multiple clinical specialists with scope of practice in the outpatient and inpatient settings.

The pharmacy residency program is affiliated with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy (TTUHSC) with residents receiving an appointment as Assistant Clinical Instructors and may pursue a teaching certificate.

Dallas VAMC serves as a major training site for a multitude of healthcare disciplines and is one of the main teaching hospitals for medical students, residents and fellows from the University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) Medical Center of Dallas.

Information for Applicants:

Special Requirements for Acceptance: U.S citizen, Pharm.D. degree from an ACPE-accredited school of pharmacy, hold an active pharmacist license from a US state or territory and eligibility for Texas pharmacy licensure, and completed or in the process of completing an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 residency program.

All application materials must be submitted via the Pharmacy Residency Centralized Application System (PhORCAS) by January 1st, of the prospective year: Letter of intent, Curriculum vitae, three (3) letters of recommendation, and official transcripts from all pharmacy education.

For more information, contact Dr. Tomasz Z. Jodlowski at Tomasz.jodlowski@va.gov

Program Leadership:

Tomasz Z. Jodlowski, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID)

Dr. Jodlowski is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist focusing on Infectious Diseases/HIV/antimicrobial stewardship at VANTHCS in Dallas and holds an academic appointment as a volunteer faculty at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from St. John's University and completed a PGY1 residency at VA Harbor Healthcare System and a PGY2 in infectious diseases at the James A. Haley VA in Tampa, FL. Dr. Jodlowski served as an associate clinical professor at St. John's University rising to the rank of associate clinical professor with tenure. He returned to the VA Maine HCS in March 2015 as an infectious diseases/HIV/HCV pharmacist and transferred to VA North Texas HCS in July

2016. His professional interests include infectious disease topics, medication errors and research. Dr. Jodlowski had the opportunity to publish in a number of peer-reviewed journals and present his research at numerous conferences including the Infectious Diseases Society of America annual meeting.

Susan Duquaine, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID)

Dr. Duquaine is the Associate Chief of Pharmacy in Clinical Programs and Education as well as an Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacist at VANTHCS in Dallas. In addition to practice and administrative activities, she serves as an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at TTUHSC School of Pharmacy. Dr. Duquaine received her Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Florida and went on to complete an ASHP-accredited PGY2 pharmacy residency in critical care at VANTHCS. Dr. Duquaine's research and practice interests primarily focus on the inpatient management of infectious diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, and HIV pharmacotherapy.

Marcus A. Kouma, Pharm.D., BCPS

Dr. Kouma is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Infectious Diseases at VANTHCS in Dallas, practicing in multiple areas of ID, including inpatient consults, antimicrobial stewardship, hepatitis C, and HIV. After receiving his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, he went on to complete and ASHP-accredited Pharmacy Practice residency at the Mann-Grandstaff VAMC in Spokane, Washington and a PGY2 Infectious Diseases pharmacy residency at VANTHCS in Dallas. His primary interests are in the areas of antimicrobial resistance, dosing optimization, and antimicrobial stewardship.

Jessica Guastadisegni, Pharm.D.

Dr. Guastadisegni is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Hepatitis C at VANTHCS in Dallas. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Texas Southern University, completed a PGY1 residency at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, and finished with a PGY2 in infectious diseases at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston, Texas. Her areas of interest include HIV, Hepatitis C, antimicrobial resistance in immunocompromised patients, and antimicrobial stewardship.