The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center are pleased to announce the development of the pharmacy practice management residency. This residency program was started at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 1991 and had two previous graduates. Scott Mark, director of pharmacy operations for UPMC Presbyterian, restarted the program this year in conjunction with Robert Weber, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. Dr. Mark came to UPMC from Washington, D.C., in December 2004 and is a graduate of The Ohio State University Medical Center’s administrative residency program. The goal of the pharmacy practice management residency is to develop leaders in health-system pharmacy. Upon completion of the program, the residents will have the necessary skills and extensive experience that are needed to oversee the daily operations of a pharmacy department, develop a vision and set goals and objectives for a department, and lead initiatives that promote pharmaceutical care.

Ozioma Ogbuokiri, PharmD

The residency offers a variety of core and elective rotations. The breadth and diversity of the experiences is one strength of the program. Core rotations include pharmacy operations, departmental administration, informatics, finance, inventory management, medication safety, drug use and disease state management, and information technology. The residents also rotate through other facilities within the UPMC Health System, including Shadyside, South Side, and Health Central Pharmacy. Through these rotations, the residents have the opportunity to learn how to operate different types of pharmacy departments and learn skills such as negotiating purchasing contracts. The residents also have several elective rotations such as health system administration, teaching, investigational drug services, and drug information. For the didactic portion of their experience, the residents have weekly administrative topic discussions in addition to the opportunity to be involved in teaching PharmD candidates at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. A future goal...
In 2003, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy began the Resident Research Series. I had the opportunity to participate in the second year of this series as a pharmacy practice resident, and I look forward to going through it again this year as a specialty resident.

The Resident Research Series is a unique, structured program that serves as the resident’s first exposure to clinical research. Through bi-weekly evening meetings, faculty guide the residents and keep them on track toward completing their project, from developing a research idea to preparing a manuscript, within the time frame of the residency year. Robert Weber, Randall Smith, and Dennis Swanson coordinate the series. During the first few sessions, guest lecturers present the fundamentals of research. Topics include developing a hypothesis, reviewing IRB procedures, writing research proposals, managing and analyzing data, writing abstracts/research papers, and presenting research results effectively.

An important aspect of this series is feedback to the residents by peers, project mentors, other faculty, and the research series coordinators. At each meeting, the residents update the attendees on their progress, whether it be the draft of their hypothesis and specific aims, or the development of the data management methods, data tables, final abstract, or final presentation slides for conference presentation. The presentation is followed by a round-table discussion that allows the resident to take advantage of the collective knowledge and experiences of the group and often serves as a “brainstorm session” to improve the project.

Each resident’s final abstract is published in a booklet that is distributed at the Annual Residency Banquet. The booklet serves as a memento of the hard work of the past year. This year, I am very excited to be working with Amy Seybert, PharmD, on a research project involving simulation-based learning as an educational method for pharmacy students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. With her mentorship and the help of the Resident Research Series, I hope to continue to develop my skills and experience in designing, conducting, and reporting clinical research.

Alumni Updates

Future Residents:

Thom Daniel Donihi, born 7/5/2004, son of Amy (Calabrese) Donihi ('99)

Raiya Patel, born 6/21/2004, daughter of Sheel Patel ('00)


Christopher McDonald Taylor, born 9/8/2004, son of Simone Taylor ('99)

Amber Wright, born 7/8/2004, daughter of Eric Wright ('99)

Newly Wed:

Ed Horn ('01) and Paula Biscup on September 10, 2005

Brian Miller ('05,'06) and Danielle Talotta on September 10, 2005

Jessica Neely ('01) to Clay Slivko on May 20, 2005
Meet the Class of 2005–06

Melissa Benedict  
Pharmacy Practice (VAHS)  
Melissa is from the South Hills of Pittsburgh, Pa., and graduated with her PharmD from Duquesne. As a student, she took rotations to prepare her for a career as a clinical pharmacist specializing in geriatrics. Melissa plans to pursue a specialty residency or become involved in outpatient clinics. She would eventually like to gain a faculty position within a school of pharmacy. Melissa’s interests include traveling, shopping, and running.

Jessica Bollinger  
Pharmacy Practice (UPMC)  
Jessica is from Nashport, Ohio, and graduated with her PharmD from the Ohio State University in June 2005. As an intern at the Ohio State University Medical Center and through her clinical clerkship rotations, she developed an interest in critical care pharmacy. Following her pharmacy practice residency, she hopes to pursue a specialty residency in critical care. She enjoys camping, playing volleyball, watching collegiate athletics (Go Bucks!), and spending time with her family and dogs (Wiley and Rufus).

Shrina Duggal  
Pharmacy Practice (UPMC)  
Shrina is from Athens, Ohio, and received her PharmD from West Virginia University in May 2005. Her decision to complete a pharmacy practice residency was fueled by her desire to broaden her clinical, research, and teaching knowledge and experience. After this residency, she plans to pursue a specialty residency in Hematology and Oncology. Her primary interest within oncology is in pain management. Shrina’s interests outside of pharmacy include rollerblading, hiking, traditional Indian dance, and spending time with friends and family.

Timothy George  
Oncology Specialty (UPMC)  
Tim is originally from Wheeling, W.Va., and received his PharmD in May 2004 from West Virginia University. To enhance his clinical and academic skills, he decided to leave “Mountaineer Country” to pursue a pharmacy practice residency with the University of Pittsburgh which he completed in June 2005. He decided to stay on at UPMC to begin a clinical specialty residency position in the field of Hematology and Oncology. Tim’s outside interests include golf, running, exercising, playing pool, and reading.

Brian Miller  
Oncology Specialty (UPMC)  
Brian is originally from Wheeling, W.Va., and received his PharmD from Duquesne in 2004. He came to UPMC in order to gain valuable experience in clinical, teaching/precepting, and research skills. Brian completed his a pharmacy practice residency at UPMC in June. He plans to pursue a clinical pharmacy position after finishing the specialty residency. In his leisure time, he enjoys weightlifting/exercising, participating in athletics, watching sports, and spending time with family and friends.

Cory Murray  
Cardiology Specialty (UPMC)  
Cory received his PharmD from Duquesne in 2004 and completed his pharmacy practice residency at UPMC in June. As a specialty resident this year, he will focus on cardiology, his primary area of interest. Upon completion of his residency, Cory hopes to work in a clinical environment and provide pharmaceutical care and education to patients. In addition, he hopes to balance his clinical interests with those of teaching by becoming a clinical faculty member at a school of pharmacy.
Meet the Class of 2005–06

Ozioma Ogguokiri
Pharmacy Practice Management Specialty (UPMC)

Ozioma grew up in Willingboro, N.J. She received her PharmD from Northeastern University in May 2004. She then completed a pharmacy practice residency at Children’s National Medical Center. Her clinical interest is in pediatrics. Her goal for this year is to continue to develop her leadership and management skills. After her residency, she would like to pursue a management position in a pediatric institution and teach. During what little time she has outside of pharmacy, she enjoys reading and shopping.

Annette Sanford
Family Medicine (UPMC)

Annette received her PharmD from LECOM School of Pharmacy in Erie in June 2005. Although she is new to pharmacy, she is not new to health care since she is a registered nurse. Annette is very excited about her residency in ambulatory care and hopes to develop a strong clinical and academic background. She chose UPMC because of its strong commitment to continued education and collaborative approach to patient care. She enjoys camping, swimming and spending time with family and friends.

Casey Sanner
Critical Care/Cardiology Specialty (UPMC)

Casey completed his Doctor of Pharmacy degree and certificate program in pharmacy administration at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. He then completed an ASHP Pharmacy Practice Residency at Hamot Medical Center in Erie, Pa. There he became very interested in cardiology and critical care medicine. His specific interests are in the areas of heart failure, sepsis, and clinical pharmacy’s impact on patient care. He plans to pursue a faculty/clinical position at a major teaching hospital. Outside of work he enjoys traveling and golf.

Patricia Saunders
Infectious Disease Specialty (UPMC)

Patricia is originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, but has spent most of her life in Florida. She earned her PharmD at the University of Florida in 2004 and completed a pharmacy practice residency at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, CT. There she developed a strong interest in infectious diseases and decided to pursue a specialty residency. During her residency, she hopes to gain clinical experience in the various areas of infectious diseases as well as research and teaching skills.

Lauren Veltry
Primary Care Specialty (UPMC)

Lauren is originally from Barboursville, W.Va., and graduated with her PharmD from West Virginia University in 2004. She then chose to pursue a pharmacy practice residency at the Lexington VA Medical Center in Lexington, Ky. Both her rotations and residency fueled her interest in primary care. The unique ability to work with the ambulatory transplant clinics is one of the factors that brought her to UPMC. Her outside interests include traveling, reading, cooking, and shopping, though not necessarily in that order.

Eunjin Yang
Pharmacy Practice Management Specialty (UPMC)

Eunjin obtained her BS degree in pharmacy from Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea, and her doctorate in pharmacy from Creighton University in Nebraska. In the past she has worked as a clinical pharmacist at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md., and was a clinical manager at Bayhealth Medical Center in Dover, Del. Her research project this year will examine patient perception and satisfaction with pharmacists as medication educators in the hospital. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and shopping.

Jeanette Yoder
Pharmacy Practice (VAHS)

Jeanette graduated from Campbell University School of Pharmacy in Buies Creek, N.C., in 2005. She decided to come to Pittsburgh after meeting some of the VA pharmacists at the ASHP Midyear Meeting. Her primary interests include geriatrics and pharmacist-run clinics, so the VA seemed like a perfect fit. She hopes to pursue a career in the clinic setting and manage drug therapies for patients with hyperlipidemia, hypertension, diabetes, and clotting disorders. She enjoys singing, traveling and visiting friends and family.
Professional Updates

James Coons ('03) recently passed the BCPS exam. He is now the pharmacy practice residency director at Allegheny General Hospital.

Shelby Corman ('04) is now assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics and drug information specialist at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

Kimberly Corpus ('02) was recently appointed the residency coordinator for the critical care pharmacy practice residency at Henry Ford Hospital and adjunct professor at Henry Ford Community College where she teaches Current Issues in Pharmacy Practice to pre-pharmacy students.

Bethany Fedutes Henderson ('03) is now manager, Field Clinical Programs, Pharmacy Health Services at the Rite Aid Corporation.

Paul Juang ('04) is now assistant professor of pharmacy practice at St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

Jessica (Neely) Slivko ('01) started a pharmacy consulting business in January called JLS pharmacy consultants, LLC. She assists clients with writing drug monographs and clinical guidelines as well as providing formulary expertise. Also, she and her husband are the new owners of Petland Monroeville in Miracle Mile Shopping Plaza. You can contact her at jneely470@comcast.net if you would like part-time work at either site!

Christina Schober ('03, '04) accepted a position at the Medical College of Georgia Medical Center as the internal medicine/ambulatory clinical pharmacist.

Eric Wright ('99) received tenure and was promoted to associate professor at Wilkes University School of Pharmacy.

Recent Publications by Resident Alumni


New Pharmacy Practice Management Residency

Continued from page 1

of the pharmacy practice management residency is to extend the residency to a two-year program in combination with a Master of Science degree in hospital pharmacy administration.

This year’s pharmacy practice management specialty residents are Eunjin Yang and Ozioma Ogbuokiri. Both residents have diverse backgrounds prior to coming to UPMC. Eunjin practiced as a clinical pharmacist and clinical coordinator. Ozioma is a more recent graduate and completed a pharmacy practice residency in 2005. The residents are already hard at work, with projects aimed at improving pharmacy services and operations. Bryan Yourich, operations manager at UPMC Presbyterian, feels that the program is going well, stating, “The program will allow us to increase our productivity as a management team. We have a critical shortage of well-trained pharmacy managers nationwide. The program allows us to give something back to the profession by training the next generation of qualified managers.”