



**UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA**  
College of Pharmacy

### WELLSTAR MCG HEALTH PGY1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY

**Wellstar MCG Health**, home of the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) provides a 12- month (52 week) ASHP-accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency, which is offered in conjunction with the **University of Georgia (UGA) College of Pharmacy** clinical pharmacy graduate certificate program for PGY1 residents. Residents are appointed as graduate teaching assistants for the College of Pharmacy and earn graduate course credit while completing the **graduate certificate in clinical pharmacy** from the UGA Graduate School.

This post-graduate experience provides comprehensive training in acute care, ambulatory care, drug information, medication-use policy development, practice management, teaching and research. The program is flexible to meet individual residents' specific needs and interests. Residents participate in pharmacy coverage (rotating schedule, weekends and evenings) and are responsible for completing a research project suitable for publication in a professional journal. There is an option to early commit to a **PGY2** residency in **Ambulatory Care, Critical Care, Oncology, Pediatrics, and Infectious Diseases**. Our **PGY1-PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership residency (HSPAL)** is a two-year commitment. Nearly five decades of Pharmacy Residency graduates continue to make us proud by "making a difference" in a variety of practice settings.

#### MISSION OF OUR RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

To create residency graduates who are competent, confident, and compassionate pharmacy practitioners who are active members of the health care team and positioned to be leaders, educators, and researchers in the profession.

#### PGY1 RESIDENCY PROGRAM PURPOSE:

PGY1 residency programs build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and outcomes to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives. Residents who successfully complete PGY1 residency programs will be skilled in diverse patient care, practice management, leadership, and education, and be prepared to provide patient care, seek board certification in pharmacotherapy (i.e., BCPS), and pursue advanced education and training opportunities including postgraduate year two (PGY2) residencies.

Our residency graduates assume substantive precepting and/or teaching responsibilities, often as adjunct faculty or in clinical faculty roles. They will be leaders and change agents at their practice sites and for the profession.

#### PHARMACISTS...PRACTITIONERS AND LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Pharmacists completing this residency will be competent, confident and compassionate pharmaceutical care providers across the continuum of patient care. They will be accountable for achieving optimal drug therapy outcomes as active members of the health care team. These pharmacists will exercise skill in educating patients, consumers, other health professionals and the next generation of pharmacists. They will serve as a role model by contributing to improved pharmacy services and patient outcomes in their practice setting. Through self-evaluation and improvement, they will grow professionally throughout their career.

## Program Schedule

The residency program begins in July and lasts 12 months (52 weeks).

## Compensation and Benefits

Residents enjoy a competitive stipend and generous benefits package including accrual of twenty-four days paid-time-off (PTO) as well as professional leave days for meeting attendance, individualized subsidized insurance starting day 1, free parking, and matching contributions to a 403-b retirement plan. The program pays resident travel expenses and registration fees to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and the Southeastern Residency Conference (SERC). As graduate teaching assistants for UGA, residents receive a tuition waiver on graduate course instruction at the University of Georgia.

## Application Process

**Applications are submitted electronically through the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS).** Deadline for receipt of applications is **January 2**; however, early application is encouraged. On-site interviews are offered to a limited number of applicants based on review of the completed application in PhORCAS.

Applicants must possess a Pharm.D. degree from an ACPE-accredited college or school of pharmacy and must be eligible for licensure as a pharmacist in the State of Georgia.

Application Material Includes:

- 1) Standardized application through PhORCAS (including letter of intent, CV, etc.)
- 2) At least 3 professional references through PhORCAS
- 3) Transcripts (only pharmacy school-related coursework must be submitted)

For more information, refer to online information at <https://www.wellstar.org/pharmacy-residency/wmcg-health-pgy1-pharmacy-residency>

## Contact Person

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**EXPERIENCES AND PRECEPTORS**

**Experiences Offered**

<b><u>Core Requirements (one calendar month each)</u></b>	<b><u>Electives (1 month each, not complete list)</u></b>
Ambulatory Care*	Academia
Critical Care*	Cardiology
Drug Information & Medication Policy	Clinical Research Investigational Drug Service
Orientation	Emergency Medicine (Adult or Pediatric)
Patient Care (Acute) Medicine*	Geriatrics Long Term Care
Pediatrics*	Hematology/Oncology
Pharmacy Management	Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation
Project Month	Infectious Disease
<i>*Choose from options (selective)</i>	Neurology
	Oncology (Malignant Hematology)
	Pharmacy Informatics
	Population Health
<b><u>Longitudinal</u></b>	
Longitudinal Pharmacy Practice-Professional Core	
Research Project	Precepting Patient Care +/- Academic-with-Stewardship Focus
Staffing – Integrated Pharmacy Practice	<i>Resident may also repeat a previous core experience but with a different emphasis</i>
Teaching Longitudinal Core - UGA Graduate Certificate Program	

**Program Contacts and Key Preceptors (see complete list & bios online)**

Lucy Crosby, Pharm.D., BCPS	PGY1 Residency Program Director
Nathan Wayne, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCP	PGY1 Coordinator Cardiology Clinical Pharmacist
Richard Burrell, RPh, MBA	PGY1-PGY2 HSPAL Program Director Administrative Director of Pharmacy
Amber Clemmons, Pharm.D., BCOP*	PGY2 Oncology Program Director Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant
Josh Eudy, Pharm.D., BCIDP	PGY2 Infectious Diseases Program Director Antimicrobial Stewardship
Christy Forehand, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP	PGY2 Critical Care Program Director Medicine ICU
Rusty May, Pharm.D., FASHP*	Infectious Disease, Academia
Kelley Norris, Pharm.D., BCPPS	PGY2 Pediatrics Program Director Pharmacy Manager, Acute Care Clinical Services
Kate O'Connor, Pharm.D., BCACP	PGY2 Ambulatory Care Program Director Internal Medicine Ambulatory Care
Marjorie Shaw Phillips, M.S., RPh, FASHP	Manager, Residency Program Excellence Clinical Research Pharmacy/Institutional Review Board

*\*UGA Faculty*

## HEALTH SYSTEM PHARMACY SERVICES

- The Department of Pharmacy provides pharmaceutical care to patients and comprehensive services to physicians and other health care professionals as an integral part of the teaching, research, and patient-care programs of the clinical enterprise. The Pharmacy Department's activities are enhanced by integrated state-of-the-art computerized information systems, and automation from central inventory management to the latest unit-based cabinets and smart infusion pumps.

Pharmacy services available at a variety of locations around campus:

- The inpatient **Central Pharmacy** is the primary production area. The medication distribution process is highly automated with MedCarousel technology for refilling automated dispensing cabinets throughout the medical center that provide immediate access to over 80% of doses. There are multiple daily unit-dose medication fill lists for pediatric patients requiring individualized doses. The packaging and manufacturing area prepares unit doses from bulk containers, compounds a variety of dosage forms, and flavors pediatric oral liquids. Large-volume parenterals, minibags, total parenteral nutrition solutions, and chemotherapy are aseptically prepared in a USP<797>-compliant IV clean room. We implemented an IV Station Compounding Robot and an XR2 med carousel in 2020.
- A **Satellite Pharmacy** in the **Children's Hospital of Georgia (CHOG)** meets the immediate needs of pediatric, critical care and emergency department patients seven days a week. This area prepares individualized doses and IV batch preparation for pediatric patients, as well as pediatric and neonatal parenteral dilutions in a USP<797>-compliant IV clean room.
- **Unit-Based Pharmacists** cover hospital inpatient units. They provide clinical pharmacy support to the medical and nursing staffs including pharmacokinetic consulting and drug choice recommendations. They also participate in a variety of direct patient care services including multidisciplinary rounds, medication counseling, Code Blue response, renal dose adjustments and therapeutic drug monitoring. Pharmacists work with their retail counterparts and **Meds-to-Beds** pharmacy technicians to promote seamless transitions in care.
- The **Medical Office Building Pharmacy** provides pharmacy services to one of the largest ambulatory care centers in the southeast. An **Employee Pharmacy** opened in late fall 2012, **Specialty Pharmacy** services were implemented in 2014 and a **Retail Pharmacy** that has a discharge prescription program with transitions in care management. Delivery to the patient's bedside (meds-to-beds program) opened in May 2015. The retail pharmacy also coordinates with prescribers to provide Patient Assistance Program drugs.
- **Therapeutic Policy/Formulary Management/Drug Information** - Pharmacists proactively provide pharmaceutical and drug therapy information to health care practitioners. Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee activities, formulary management, medication policies and clinical guidelines, and the medication use evaluation (MUE) program are coordinated through members of the Pharmacy Leadership Team.
- **Medication Safety** - The medication safety pharmacist at Wellstar MCG is a member of the department of pharmacy, tasked with oversight and advisement of all aspects associated with provision of safe medication use. The medication safety pharmacist provides a leadership role in instituting models that promote medication safety in all aspects of the medication management process and oversees pharmacy residents and students.
- **Antimicrobial Stewardship pharmacists** work closely with our Infectious Disease service and Epidemiology to optimize use of anti-infective agents and minimize the development of antibiotic resistance in both adult and pediatric patients.

- **The Georgia Cancer Center Pharmacy** prepares chemotherapy and supportive care medications for administration to ambulatory patients with cancer and provides services for a Cancer Clinical Research Unit (Phase I and Phase II clinical trials). The pharmacy features a USP<797> and USP<800> compliant hazardous IV cleanroom. The pharmacy is adjacent to the infusion area, which facilitates interactions and patient education. Augusta University and Wellstar MCG Health are pursuing an initiative to be recognized as an NCI-designated Cancer Center and this is one of only 14 NCI Community Oncology Research Program Minority/Underserved Community Site grantees (NCORP) nationally (see <http://ncorp.cancer.gov>). In 2017, the first **Clinic-based Oncology Pharmacist** began developing services for the solid-tumor cancer patients being seen for non-infusion related treatment and continuity of care (now 2 pharmacists), an **Ambulatory BMT Pharmacist** was added in 2022.
- **Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Services** for the Adult and Pediatric Emergency Rooms are provided 7 days a week/24 hours a day by pharmacists and medication history pharmacy technicians. Pharmacists participate in bedside medication preparation and administration, medication therapy optimization, antimicrobial stewardship, toxicology, and management of medical emergencies. They also promote safe and effective medication use through protocol and guideline development and interdisciplinary education.
- **Renal Transplant Clinic** provides multidisciplinary and collaborative care to patients before and after solid organ transplant and evaluation of donors and recipients. Two pharmacists are dedicated full time to the growing Solid Organ Transplant program (both inpatient and ambulatory care).
- **Ambulatory-based Pharmacist Clinicians**, who operate under collaborative practice agreements, are part of the care teams in the **Family Medicine Center, Internal Medicine Clinic, Pediatrics, Oncology Solid Tumor Clinic, Cardiology, Population Health**, and the **Digestive Health Center**. Family Medicine is recognized as a level-three Patient-Centered Medical Home and additional population health efforts are underway in adult primary care and pediatrics. The **Anticoagulation Clinic** is a pharmacist-run collaborative practice site. A full-time pediatric pharmacist and full-time adult pharmacist are part of the Pediatric and Adult **Cystic Fibrosis** teams.
- The **Clinical Research Pharmacy** provides study medication management and research support services for over 200 inpatient and outpatient protocols. Pharmacists are involved on both biomedical IRBs (including a pharmacist Chair for the hematology/oncology-focused IRB), and two pharmacists serve on the PRMC – the scientific review committee for the Georgia Cancer Center.
- Pharmacy services are provided to the **Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home (GWVNH)**, a 188-bed long-term care facility on campus. Consultant services include attendance at admission interviews, developing a pharmacy care plan, monitoring therapy outcomes and recommending pharmacotherapeutic options. The Pharmacy provides unit dose drug distribution, drug information and a medication use evaluation program.
- **Education and Training Programs** of the Pharmacy Department include ASHP-accredited **PGY1, PGY2** Pediatric, Oncology, Critical Care, Ambulatory Care, and Infectious Diseases residencies, PGY1-PGY2 HSPAL residency, numerous IPPE and APPE (clerkships) for the University of Georgia Pharm.D. Program, pharmacy intern experiences, and **ASHP-accredited technician training** rotations in conjunction with two technical colleges. Pharmacy practitioners hold academic appointments with the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy as Clinical Faculty and/or Preceptors. “Pharmacy Grand Rounds” is a weekly **ACPE-accredited** educational seminar sponsored by the residency program and the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The Pharmacy Department also jointly sponsors monthly **Adverse Drug Reaction Conferences** in the adult hospital (with the Department of Medicine) and in the children’s hospital (with the Department of Pediatrics). Our department has a strong commitment to ongoing pharmacy preceptor development and our teaching mission.

**University of Georgia (UGA) College of Pharmacy** has full-time faculty located on the Wellstar MCG Health campus. The faculty participates in pharmacy services as part of their research, education, and training activities. The College of Pharmacy is an active partner in the pharmacy residency program. Pharmacy residents participate in classroom teaching locally and via video link, and are involved with mentoring of pharmacy students in Augusta. Some of the Wellstar MCG Health pharmacy residents are graduate teaching assistants in the College of Pharmacy and qualify for a tuition waiver if they would like to take elective UGA graduate courses. See <https://rx.uga.edu/academic-programs/certificates/>

### **Overview**

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy offers the Doctor of Pharmacy professional degree. Based in Athens, Georgia, the college admits about 150 students a year. The four-year professional program integrates classroom, laboratory and experiential training in a curriculum organized around both human physiology and disease states. Thirty students from each class spend the last 2 years of their program on the Augusta campus with another 10 coming for the 4<sup>th</sup> year clinical rotations. The college also offers graduate studies in disciplines associated with pharmacotherapeutic research, clinical and experimental therapeutics, and administration.

### **History**

The College of Pharmacy was founded in 1903. In 1926, seven years before a degree was required for licensure, the college adopted a four-year Bachelor of Science program. Since that time the college has remained on the cutting edge of pharmacy education. State-of-the-art two-way interactive video links our campus to faculty and students in Athens, Albany and Savannah. The UGA College of Pharmacy has also been a leader in implementing online instruction and providing students with earlier practice experience opportunities.

### **Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy**

The Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy offers clinical training in many areas through clinical sites in Athens, Augusta (at Wellstar MCG Health), Savannah, and Albany. Faculty work in a diverse array of patient care sites from primary care clinics and community pharmacies to large, tertiary-care hospitals. The Department offers PhD degrees in Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics and Pharmacy Care Administration. The Center for Pharmacy and Experimental Therapeutics at the Medical College of Georgia facilitates research and teaching collaborations between UGA and Augusta University.

### Internet-based Information Resources

Wellstar Health System	<a href="https://www.wellstar.org/">https://www.wellstar.org/</a>
Augusta University Campus	<a href="http://www.augusta.edu/about/">http://www.augusta.edu/about/</a>
Community Information on Augusta Area	<a href="https://www.visitaugusta.com/">https://www.visitaugusta.com/</a>
Residency Information	<a href="http://www.wellstar.org/pharmacy-residencies">www.wellstar.org/pharmacy-residencies</a>
UGA College of Pharmacy Residency Programs	<a href="https://rx.uga.edu/academic-programs/residency-programs/">https://rx.uga.edu/academic-programs/residency-programs/</a>

### About Augusta

Augusta, the Garden City, has a small-town atmosphere with big-city resources. The city borders South Carolina with the Savannah River providing a beautiful, natural boundary. The larger community is diverse, offering a pleasurable mix of city life and country comfort with a growing skyline, but still plenty of peaceful, friendly neighborhoods and an affordable cost of living. Blankets of azaleas carpet the city each spring, and thousands of trees emblazon the area with color season after season. The Augusta Canal and North Augusta Greenway feature walking and biking trails that offer miles of scenic exercise, recreation and relaxation.

Augusta is the cultural entertainment and shopping center for the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), which encompasses 18 counties and more than half a million people, 80 percent of whom live in the metropolitan area. Attractions in the city include the prestigious Masters Golf Tournament, and annual international rowing regatta, year round Riverwalk activities and Lake Thurmond, with a 1,200-mile shoreline. The city has minor-league baseball, professional rugby and roller derby teams, an opera association, community theaters, a symphony orchestra and a ballet company among other offerings. It is also the home of the EWSI Ironman Augusta 70.3, which held the record for the largest IRONMAN 70.3 race.

Augusta is a friendly, close-knit community with open arms for the many newcomers attracted to the area each year.

Evans, Georgia (a suburb of Augusta) was recognized in 2020 by Money Magazine as the “Best Place to Live in America Right Now.” Read full story here:

<https://money.com/evans-georgia-best-places-to-live-2020/>

### About Augusta University (AU)

Augusta University, home of the Medical College of Georgia, is one of only four public comprehensive research institutions in the state of Georgia. Founded in 1828, the university includes ten colleges and schools with more than 10,000 students, 1,000+ full-time faculty members and over 5,000 staff. It houses the nation's 13th-oldest medical school, the state's sole dental college, an aligned and integrated health system, a growing intercollegiate athletics program, the highly respected Hull College of Business, the diverse Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Education and the School of Computer and Cyber Sciences (see <https://cybercenter.georgia.gov/>).

The university has a strong commitment to research, building on a proud tradition that boasts, among other achievements, the groundwork for such breakthroughs as beta-blocking drugs, fertility treatments, birth control pills and the cure for pellagra. The university is building on this excellent reputation as never before with major research initiatives in cancer as well as the cardiovascular, neurological and immune systems. The university's mission is to provide leadership and excellence in teaching, discovery, clinical

care and service as a student-centered comprehensive research university and academic health center with a wide range of programs from learning assistance through postdoctoral studies.

### **About Wellstar MCG Health**

Based in Augusta, GA, Wellstar MCG Health is a world-class health care network, offering the most comprehensive primary, specialty and subspecialty care in the region. Wellstar MCG Health provides skilled, compassionate care to patients, conducts leading-edge clinical research and fosters the medical education and training of tomorrow's health care practitioners. Areas of excellence include pediatrics, neuroscience, and cancer care. As reported in the 30<sup>th</sup> annual "Best Hospitals Rankings" from US News and World Report, Wellstar MCG Health was ranked as a high performing hospital in 4 conditions: Heart attack, heart failure, kidney failure, and stroke.

Wellstar MCG Health is a not-for-profit corporation that manages the 478-bed adult hospital; the 154-bed Children's Hospital of Georgia; the Medical Office Building, with more than 80 outpatient practice sites in one convenient setting; the Critical Care Center, housing a 13-county regional Level I trauma center; and a variety of centers and units such as the Georgia Cancer Center, Sports Medicine Center and the Georgia Radiation Therapy Center.

Being an academic health center, Wellstar MCG Health differs from community hospitals. We have three primary missions -- patient care, education and research. As an academic health center, we must provide a full range of clinical services and maintain the infrastructure to foster education and research. Over 500 residents and fellows receive post-graduate training through the medical center. Wellstar MCG Health at Augusta University is nationally recognized for its emphasis on patient and family-centered care.



2022 – 2023 Pharmacy Residency Class Photo

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