

Q. Can you tell me about your program, including how many applicants will be accepted into your upcoming class?

A. The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Pharmacy PGY1 Residency Program is a 12-month curriculum that provides residents with extensive training opportunities in acute care, ambulatory care, drug information and drug use policy development, as well as clinical services and practice management. Our South campus, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Fort Belvoir, Virginia is an additional rotation site. Two to four civilian pharmacy practice applicants will be accepted into our program. The total number of residents, which includes military officers and civilians, is projected to be 4-6 for the 2013-2014 residency year.

Q. Is there a service obligation or repayment for residency training?

A. No. Unlike military residents, civilian residents are not required to serve any time for the 12-month residency period. However, if a resident is interested in joining the military after residency, we can help connect the individual to the appropriate recruiter while doing his/her residency.

Q. Where are your former residents practicing now?

A. Graduates of our residency program have assumed a variety of leadership roles in acute care, ambulatory care practice settings, and as Department Directors/Assistant Directors at both civilian and military training facilities around the world. Some have pursued Post Graduate Year 2 (PGY2) programs in Oncology, Internal Medicine and Informatics. The residency program at WRNMMC Bethesda follows the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists standard for pharmacy practice residencies. As a result, the program at WRNMMC establishes a foundation of clinical practice that can be applied in various military and civilian pharmacy settings.

Q. What clinical service does your department offer?

A. We offer clinical services in ambulatory care, including the Warrior Transition Brigade/Clinic, Anticoagulation Clinic, Patient-Centered Medical Homes/Internal Medicine, Armed Forces Retirement Home Clinics (Geriatrics), Critical Care, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Hematology/Oncology.

Q. How is pharmaceutical care supported at your institution?

A. The mission of the Command and the Department of Pharmacy is to provide high quality pharmaceutical care to our patients in an atmosphere of educational growth, shared respect, and communication. Pharmacists have expertise in clinical practice, drug information, sterile drug compounding, and investigational drug services. Additionally, pharmacy technicians, hospital corpsmen, and pharmacy automation specialists are key to the order fulfillment process and distribution functions.

About Our Program

Q. What rotations are required to complete your program?

A. Two sections of Internal Medicine, Pharmacy Practice Management/Administration, Critical Care, and Hematology/Oncology. Residents also are required to complete a longitudinal rotation in the Ambulatory Care Clinic.

Q. What elective rotations are available?

A. Ambulatory Care, Nuclear Pharmacy, Neonatal Intensive care unit (NICU), Pharmacy Research and Investigational Drug Service, Infectious Disease, and Nephrology/Dialysis.

Q. How are residents evaluated?

A. The preceptor discusses the learning goals and objectives with the resident at the beginning of each rotation. At the end of the rotation, the resident formally meets with the preceptor again to review his/her performance. An electronic report assessing the resident is prepared based on ASHP's Residency Learning System (RLS) and is reviewed and cosigned by the resident in ResiTrak. Residents evaluate themselves, the preceptor, and the rotation as well. On a quarterly basis, the director of the Residency Program provides residents with an evaluation of their progress based on the comments of the preceptors. Training plans are discussed with residents and adjusted based on the resident's self assessment report and preceptors' evaluations in line with the initial customized training plan.

Q. What teaching opportunities are there for residents?

A. WRNMMC Bethesda residents currently mentor and teach pharmacy students who are in training at the facility. Specifically, the residents serve as new preceptors-in-training and help to coordinate and review pharmacy student's journal club and case presentations. Further opportunities may be made available to residents seeking additional teaching responsibilities.

Q. Is research required?

A. Residents are required to select a project of interest or choose from a compilation of data for achievable projects. The resident is required to work with a research mentor (secondary investigator) to develop a research protocol and submit the protocol to the hospital Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval. The design, roll out, evaluation, and final manuscript of a major project related to an aspect of pharmacy practice should be worthy of publication during the residency year.

Q. What types of presentations are required?

A. Residents are required to deliver one continuing education presentation at Pharmacotherapy Rounds. They also must provide in-services to the pharmacy staff and medical teams throughout the year, depending on the rotation. In addition, residents present the results of their major project to the preceptors and staff before presenting the results at Eastern States Residency Conference (ESRC).

Q. Is staffing required?

A. Consistent with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Commission on Credentialing standards, the WRNMMC Bethesda residency experience is primarily a practical, rather than didactic or classroom experience. Practice skills are developed throughout the program in all aspects of pharmaceutical care. Residents will staff every third or fourth weekend, depending on number of residents, plus one Friday evening shift in a month. Responsibilities in this role include discharge counseling, patient care, distribution, management, and providing answers to drug-related questions from providers and nurses.

Compensation and Benefits

Q. What is the salary?

A. A PGY1 resident's stipend is based on Federal General Schedule GS-09 Step 1 salary or approximately \$48,000 plus benefits. This stipend is assessed yearly.

Q. Do residents receive vacation time?

A. Residents receive a comprehensive benefits package including health care, dental, eye care, federal holidays, 10 leave days, and 10 sick days during the residency year.

Q. Is funding available for residents to attend professional meetings?

A. Financial support is provided when funding is available for residents to attend the ASHP Mid-Year Clinical Meeting and the Eastern States Residency Conference (ESRC). Funding may also be available to residents participating in other professional meetings.

Q. Is office space available to residents?

A. Residents are provided office space. Computers are available in the residents' office.

Q. Do residents have parking privileges?

A. There are few parking options for residents. Public transportation provides convenient and safe access to the hospital. All medical center employees, including residents, are highly encouraged to utilize the federal transportation system benefit which is a stipend that offsets the cost of utilizing the public transportation system.

Relocation

Q: Where will I find affordable housing during my residency year at WRNMMC Bethesda?

A: Residents are required to train at both the WRNMMC Bethesda campus and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Alexandria campus. It is therefore highly recommended that residents stay in between the two campuses with easy access to the public transportation system. The incoming residents are assigned a "sponsor" to help answer questions and provide recommendations associated with relocation.