

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs

Faculty Biographies

Timothy M. Heimann, Pharm.D., MBA

Assistant Director, Community Outpatient Service & Pharmacy Service

Dr. Heimann received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2008. Following graduation he started his career as a staff pharmacist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Between 2009 and 2014 Dr. Heimann has held various management positions within inpatient and clinical pharmacy. During this time Dr. Heimann completed a Master of Business Administration in Health Care Management from Indiana Wesleyan University. He served as the Associate Chief of Pharmacy Operations before becoming the Chief of Pharmacy in January 2016. During the summer of 2020, Dr. Heimann took on a new role as the Assistant Director of Community Outpatient Service & Pharmacy Service. In this position he maintains his role as the Chief of Pharmacy, while now having additional oversight responsibilities of the Community Based Outpatient Clinics within the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Heimann is involved with precepting both pharmacy students and residents during their administration rotations. He is active in the profession and has held officer positions within the Cleveland Society of Health System Pharmacists and the Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacists.

Ukwen Akpoji, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Antimicrobial Stewardship & Infectious Diseases

Dr. Akpoji is originally from West Palm Beach, FL. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2015. Upon graduation, he completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. There, after interactions with renowned CDC physicians and participation in a budding antimicrobial stewardship program, he decided to pursue further specialty training in infectious diseases. Dr. Akpoji completed his ASHP-accredited PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2017 and was subsequently hired as the Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist. His responsibilities include data collection and analysis of the hospital system's antimicrobial use, direction of stewardship rounds with a multidisciplinary infectious disease team, education for patients, physicians and pharmacists, and preceptorship of PGY-2 infectious disease and PGY-1 pharmacy residents. In addition, he has been board-certified in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) since 2017 and currently serves as chairman of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee.

Mary Ellen (Molly) Amos, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Amos graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2015. During her time as a student, Dr. Amos worked as a pharmacy intern at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) where she became very interested in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy. After graduation, she went on to complete her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at The Cleveland Clinic, Main Campus in 2016 and her PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at the VANEOHS in 2017. Following residency, Dr. Amos began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VANEOHS in August 2017 and she currently practices at the Lake County Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Dr. Amos's responsibilities and duties include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics, collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, and responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-2 pharmacy residents and PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Amos received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2018.

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Faculty Biographies

Leslie Bittner, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics

Dr. Bittner is originally from Cochran, Pennsylvania. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2011. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency followed by a PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She obtained board certification in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) in 2013 and board certification in geriatrics (BCGP) in 2016. Following residency, Dr. Bittner continued with the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist on the Cardiology and Surgical units for nearly 5 years before returning to Geriatrics in 2018. Her current responsibilities include completing comprehensive medication therapy reviews, providing drug information, performing discharge counseling, and participating in interdisciplinary team patient assessments for the Community Living Center (long-term care), the Geriatric Evaluation and Management inpatient unit, and the geriatrics outpatient clinic. She also acts as a preceptor for pharmacy students, PGY-1 pharmacy residents, and PGY-2 geriatric pharmacy residents.

Heather Carey, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health PACT

Dr. Carey obtained her Bachelor of Science in biology from University of Florida in 2008 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2012 from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She then completed ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency training at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, North Carolina followed by PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency training at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. She subsequently took a position as the Clinical Psychiatric Pharmacist Specialist for University Hospitals in Richmond Heights Ohio and worked there until November 2018. She also served as adjunct faculty for Case Western Reserve University Department of Psychiatry from 2015-2018. Thereafter, she transitioned to the role of Mental Health PACT Pharmacy Specialist doing televideo appointments for the Warren CBOC in November 2018. Dr. Carey earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2015.

Antonio Carson, Pharm.D., BCGP Clinical Pharmacy Manager

Director, PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Carson is a 10-year veteran of the US Navy, where he worked at as a pharmacy technician and discovered his love for the profession of pharmacy. Dr. Carson received his Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati. He completed a PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 geriatric specialty residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Carson is a Board-Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP). He is responsible for providing direct supervision of the Clinical Pharmacy Specialists assigned to his section. He also maintains a clinical practice in Geriatrics by completing drug regimen reviews and providing pharmacotherapy recommendations for Long Term Care patients. He is also the residency program director for the PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program. His practice interests include geriatrics and internal medicine.

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Faculty Biographies

Natasha Conley, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Conley is originally from Youngstown, Ohio. At the University of Toledo, she majored in Pharmacology/Toxicology and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree in 2009. Subsequently, she attended the University of Kentucky where she earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2013. Upon graduation, she completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency with an emphasis in ambulatory care at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. In 2014, Dr. Conley began her career at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist focusing primarily on diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension. In addition, has been a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist since 2016. Currently, Dr. Conley is the PACT Clinical Pharmacy Manager overseeing the clinical pharmacy specialists who work in ambulatory care.

Danielle N Cooney, Pharm.D., BC-ADM

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Nephrology

Dr. Cooney studied chemistry at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio then graduated from The Ohio State University in June 2005 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited specialty residency in Primary Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She is currently working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in nephrology at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, Ohio. Responsibilities include precepting pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Cooney also manages a Renal/Anemia Clinic as well as completes all non-formulary requests sent to the renal clinic. She collaborates with the nephrology team and provides services to the CKD shared medical appointments. Danielle received her Board Certification in Advance Diabetes Management in 2008.

Alison Dailey, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry (Lorain CBOC)

Dr. Dailey earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Ohio Northern University in 2017. After graduation, she completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANECHS) and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program at the VANECHS. After completion of her residency training, Dr. Dailey joined the VANECHS mental health team at the Lorain VA Clinic. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formulary consults, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents. Dr. Dailey received her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2018 and her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2019.

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Faculty Biographies

Danielle Danzi, Pharm.D., BCGP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics

Dr. Danzi is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Virginia Tech in 2005 and went on to complete her Doctor of Pharmacy from VCU School of Pharmacy in 2009. After graduation, she completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. Following residency, Dr. Danzi has held several staff pharmacist and clinical pharmacist positions in the inpatient setting. Her interest in geriatrics started while working as a clinical pharmacist in internal medicine at UVA Medical Center. She then became board certified in geriatrics in 2013. Prior to joining the geriatrics service at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, she worked as a consultant pharmacist for the PACE program in Charlottesville, Virginia. Her current responsibilities include completing comprehensive medication therapy reviews, providing drug information, performing discharge counseling, participating in interdisciplinary team patient assessments for the Community Living Center (long-term care), and the geriatrics outpatient clinic.

Charlie Dorflinger, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mental Health PACT

Dr. Dorflinger obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Chemical Biology and Master of Science in Chemistry from Case Western Reserve University in 2014. He went on to obtain his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2018 from Northeast Ohio Medical University. After graduation, he completed both an ASHP accredited PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 psychiatric pharmacy residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). After completion of his residency training, Dr. Dorflinger joined the VANEOHS team as a clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry. Dr. Dorflinger received his Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2019.

Aubrey Felton, Pharm.D.

Outpatient Pharmacy Supervisor

Dr. Felton graduated from Ohio Northern University in 2008. Upon graduation, she became an outpatient staff pharmacist at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. While staffing, she participated in the heart failure medication reconciliation clinic. Dr. Felton transitioned into her role as outpatient pharmacy manager in 2015. Some of her responsibilities include oversight to the outpatient technicians, liaison for the pharmacy interns, APPE student preceptor, preceptor to PGY2 residents, and various outpatient operations. Aubrey accrued the Meds to Beds team in December of 2018. She now oversees both components of the staffing experience for the residents.

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Faculty Biographies

Paige Sinclair Gast, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Dr. Sinclair obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree and minor in Neuroscience in 2013 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2017 from The Ohio State University. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as well as a teaching certificate from Northeast Ohio Medical University. She then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Dr. Sinclair currently works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at VA Northeast Ohio David F. Winder Outpatient Clinic located in Mansfield, Ohio. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management to community based outpatient clinics, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formularies, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Sinclair earned her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2018 and her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2019. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Megan Goering, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Bensi received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2014. She went on to complete an ASHP accredited specialty residency in Ambulatory Care at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, Ohio in 2015. She worked as a Clinical Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care at The Ohio State University Division of Internal Medicine until June 2017. Dr. Bensi began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in July 2017. Responsibilities include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and shared medical appointments. Other duties include collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia as well as responding to drug information requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents and PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Bensi received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2017.

Sara Gordon, Pharm.D., BCOP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Oncology

Dr. Gordon is originally from Mason, Ohio. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree from The Ohio State University in 2012 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Auburn University in 2016. After graduation, she went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the Memphis VA Medical Center, followed by a PGY-2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency at the Durham VA Health Care System. Following the completion of her residencies in 2018 she began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Oncology at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Her daily responsibilities include evaluation of chemotherapy and supportive care regimens, completion of non-formulary consults, and answering drug information questions. She serves as a preceptor for the PGY-1 pharmacy residency and PGY-2 ID residency programs. She also participates in the Research committee and Comparative Effectiveness of Medical Interventions Committee within the medical center, and she is an active member of Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA).

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Faculty Biographies

Amy Hirsch Shumaker, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases

Dr. Hirsch earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy in May 2002. After graduation she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Following her PGY-1 year, Dr. Hirsch went on to complete an ASHP accredited PGY-2 training program in Infectious Disease at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, in Cleveland, OH. Dr. Hirsch is currently one of the Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacists at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System and specializes in HIV and Hepatitis. She holds a Senior Clinical Instructor appointment in the Department of Medicine at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine (CASE SOM) for her involvement in the CASE SOM Infectious Disease Fellows Program. In addition to providing clinical pharmacy services to the HIV clinic and GI clinics, she is also involved with numerous research and process improvement projects. Dr. Hirsch also serves as a co-preceptor for pharmacy residents and students on their VA rotations.

Carol A. Ingle Pharm.D., CACP

Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Anticoagulation Clinic

Dr. Ingle received a BS in Pharmacy from the University of Toledo in 1988 and a Pharm D from The University of Florida in 2019. She has worked at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System since March 1988 in various capacities from Inpatient student, pharmacist to supervisor, Outpatient and Anticoagulation Clinics. She also has retail experience as well, from Revco, Rite Aid, Drug Mart and Giant Eagle. In 1996 was granted an ASHP Research and Education Foundation traineeship in Anticoagulation Management. In 2006 help to consolidate all Anticoagulation Clinics into one centralized clinic and became the Program Manager. Carol is a Board-Certified Anticoagulation Provider (CACP) since 2010 and has maintained the VA Anticoagulation Clinic as a Center of Excellence since 2013. She also participates in research and training of residents and students and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice for Northeast Ohio Medical University and help APPE students from all Ohio Pharmacy schools. Responsibilities include management of all staff in the Anticoagulation Clinic, quality management and safety data management as well as oversight of all anticoagulation for both inpatient and outpatient use. Dr. Ingle is also a member of the National VA subject matter expert group on Anticoagulation, which sets Anticoagulation practice guidelines for VA's nationwide.

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Ashley Kenzik, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDE

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Ashley Kenzik is originally from Lorain, Ohio. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2004. Following graduation she started her career at Rite Aid; this store previously being a successful independent pharmacy helped establish her strong patient driven work ethic. She began volunteering for the Lorain County Free Clinic during her internship, eventually became a part of the Board of Directors serving as the secretary and pharmacy license holder, and continues volunteers here to this day. She also has held an adjunct position with Lorain County College as a Pharmacology professor for Allied Health and Nursing in addition to precepting Pharmacy students from various pharmacy colleges. In 2007, Dr. Kenzik joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS) as a staff outpatient pharmacist and quickly transitioned to the clinical realm as a Lipid Specialist and provided clinical pharmacy services for Home Based Primary Care (HBPC). She eventually Transitioned to a PACT Clinical pharmacist at the Lorain Community Outpatient Clinic where she continues to practice. Current responsibilities include disease state management with a focus on diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, pharmacy resident and student precepting as well as responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. She has participated in a number of pharmacy committees and projects during her tenure. She obtained her Ambulatory Care Board Certification (BCACP) in 2011 and became a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) in 2014.

Christopher Lacey, Pharm.D., BCPS

Associate Chief, Clinical Pharmacy Services

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr Lacey is originally from Erie, Pennsylvania. He earned his Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in May 1999. After graduation he completed a 1 year Pharmacy Practice Residency at Hamot Hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Residency, Dr. Lacey has since worked at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, OH. He began in the area of Internal Medicine. He obtained board certification in pharmacotherapy in 2002 (BCPS). He became a part of pharmacy management in 2008. He is currently the Associate Chief of Clinical Pharmacy Services at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. He is involved with precepting pharmacy residents and students from local pharmacy schools. He is also a member on various committees at both the local and regional level.

Sherry (Sharon) K. Milfred Laforest, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Cardiology

Dr. LaForest received her B.S. in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Minnesota in 1991 and 1992. She then completed a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Transplantation at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. She joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in July 2008 as the Clinical Specialist in Cardiology and Solid Organ transplantation. Prior to joining the VA, Dr. LaForest held positions as a Clinical Specialist in Heart Failure and Transplantation at Temple University in Philadelphia PA, Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, IN, and University Hospital-Case Medical Center in Cleveland, OH. She currently practices in the Heart Failure Shared Medical Appointment (SMA) group clinic, Heart Failure Transitional Care Clinic and the Heart Failure Medication Titration Clinic. She has ad hoc responsibilities with inpatient cardiology, electrophysiology, and solid organ transplant services. She serves on several committees including as the pharmacy representative to the Institutional Review Board and the Advanced Heart Failure Committee. She serves as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students in cardiology rotations.

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Colleen P. LeHew, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Director, PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. LeHew graduated from Duquesne University in May 2010 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS) and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VANEOMS. After completing her residencies, Dr. LeHew joined the faculty at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University as a Clinical Assistant Professor and a Psychiatric Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Lutheran Hospital. In 2014, she returned to the VANEOMS where she is working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry. Her responsibilities include serving as a preceptor for psychiatric pharmacy specialty residents, pharmacy residents in other specialties and pharmacy students. Other duties consist of providing clinical pharmacy services for inpatient and outpatient psychiatry. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists and the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacology and has been a board certified psychiatric pharmacy specialist since 2013.

Stephanie Licata, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDE

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Licata received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of Toledo in 2011. Upon graduation, she completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 ambulatory care focused residency at the North Florida/South Georgia VA in Gainesville, Florida. She then began her ambulatory care career as a PACT (Patient Aligned Care Team) Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA's Albemarle Primary Outpatient Clinic (APOC) in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. At this clinic site, she initiated clinical pharmacy services to assist with the management of diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia and anticoagulation. In 2015, she transferred to the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as an inpatient clinical pharmacist, which included the tasks of performing medication reconciliation and discharge counseling for one year. In August 2016, Dr. Licata transitioned to a PACT clinical pharmacy specialist position. For a part of this transition, she provided clinical pharmacy services for home-based primary care (HBPC) with services including chart reviews, participating in weekly interdisciplinary meetings, and precepting PGY-2 ambulatory care pharmacy residents. She is now practicing full-time at the Parma CBOC as a PACT clinical pharmacy specialist focusing on disease state management for diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia. Dr. Licata serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students. She has also been practicing as a Certified Diabetes Educator since 2015 and Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP) since 2017.

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Mary Beth Low, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Pharmacoeconomics

Dr. Low graduated from Creighton University in 1995 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Low is currently the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Pharmacoeconomics for the VA Healthcare System serving Ohio, Indiana and Michigan (VISN 10). At the VANEOLS in Cleveland (Wade Park campus) her responsibilities include providing medication use and cost analysis information to pharmacy leadership at the 11 facilities within VISN 10 as well as monitoring performance on medication initiatives to improve patient care and impact drug expenditure. Other duties include participating in the VISN 10 PBM Subcommittee, the national PBM Research Steering Committee and both national and local Medication Use Evaluation Committees. Dr. Low precepts both PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents in Formulary Management and MUE experiences. Dr. Low began her career as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She provided clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and previously served as the director of the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency program.

Jennifer Luxenburg, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care (Parma)

Dr. Luxenburg graduated from The Ohio State University in 2011 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. After graduation, she completed both her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residencies at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOLS). Upon completion of residency training in 2013, Dr. Luxenburg accepted a position as a Primary Care Clinical Specialist at The Cleveland Clinic. She established clinical pharmacy services at The Cleveland Clinic Stephanie Tubbs Jones Family Health Center. Responsibilities included disease state management along with provider, medical resident, pharmacy resident and student education. Dr. Luxenburg returned to VANEOLS in February of 2017 as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the Parma Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Current responsibilities include disease state management with a focus on diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, pharmacy resident and student precepting as well as responding to drug information and non-formulary requests. Dr. Luxenburg has been a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist since 2013.

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Alessandra Lyman, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Lyman received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Northeastern University in 2015. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Boston Healthcare System in 2016 and a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2017. After completion of residency, she worked as a Clinical Ambulatory Pharmacist at Wentworth Douglass Hospital/Wentworth Health Partners in Dover, NH. Dr. Lyman returned to VANEOLS in 2018 as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in 'Meds to Beds', and then transitioned in 2019 to her current position as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care. Responsibilities include providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and shared medical appointments, as well as working with endocrinology in the weight management clinic. Other duties include collaboration with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia as well as responding to drug information requests. She also serves as a preceptor for PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents and PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. Dr. Lyman received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2018.

Steve Margevicius, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Home Based Primary Care

Dr. Margevicius attended The University of Toledo where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree in 2011 and Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2013. He then completed his PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice residency at the St. John Medical Center in Westlake, OH and joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2014. Dr. Margevicius is currently based out of Wade Park where he serves as the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Pharmacy Supervisor. In addition to providing administrative and clinical pharmacy services to HBPC, Dr. Margevicius is also involved as preceptor and research advisor to pharmacy students and PGY1/PGY2 residents. Dr. Margevicius remains involved with various local and national pharmacy organizations such as the Cleveland Society of Health System Pharmacists (CSHP) where he most recently served as Secretary in 2014.

Jessica L. Mulhollan, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Dr. Mulhollan obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy in 2009. She then completed both an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and an ASHP accredited PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency at the VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo, NY, from 2009-2011. Following residency, Dr. Mulhollan worked as an inpatient psychiatric clinical pharmacist at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, PA, for 5 years. While there, she worked on the dual diagnosis unit and specialized in substance use disorders. She then took a position with Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights, OH, as an inpatient clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry in March 2016. She worked on both a general adult psychiatry unit and a geriatric psychiatry unit there for 3 years. In May 2019, she accepted a position as a clinical pharmacy specialist in psychiatry at the VANEOLS Canton Outpatient Clinic. Her responsibilities as a mental health provider include providing comprehensive medication management with prescriptive authority, conducting assessments, placing consults/referrals to appropriate services, and ordering laboratory and other tests for her veterans. Additional responsibilities include completing non-formulary psychiatric drug requests and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Mulhollan earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy (BCPP) in 2013. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists, having served on the Program Committee from 2013-2016, and currently serving on the BCPP Recertification Editorial Board since 2016.

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Kristina Pascuzzi, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Pascuzzi graduated from The University of Toledo in May 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Science, then in May 2001 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited residency in Pharmacy Practice with emphasis in Ambulatory Care at VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, CT. She is currently working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Responsibilities include serving as a preceptor for the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency program, precepting PGY-1 pharmacy residents, and PharmD candidates from area Colleges of Pharmacy including Ohio Northern University, University of Toledo and The Ohio State University. Other duties consist of providing clinical pharmacy services for outpatient internal medicine clinics and shared medical appointments. This is accomplished by collaborating with primary care providers to evaluate drug therapy and by providing disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, as well as managing patients on anticoagulation therapy. Offering drug information, responding to therapeutic consults and non-formulary consults, as well as requests for patient education are also incorporated throughout the day.

Alia Poore, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Critical Care/Cardiology

Dr. Poore received a PharmD from the University of Toledo in 2008. She then completed a PGY-1 and PGY-2 Critical Care residency at MetroHealth in Cleveland from 2008-2010. Alia is currently board certified in pharmacotherapy (BCPS) and critical care (BCCCP). Alia worked at Mercy St Vincent Medical Center in Toledo as a Critical Care Specialist and RPD for the PGY-2 Critical Care residency from 2010-2012. Alia then worked at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital as a critical care specialist from 2012-2019. In 2019 Alia joined the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System pharmacy team as a Critical Care/Cardiology clinical specialist. Her daily responsibilities include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing admission and transfer medication reconciliation, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. Dr. Poore has also been an active member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine as well as the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Kelsey Rife, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Hepatology

Clinical Program Manager—Academic Affairs

Dr. Rife earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in May 2012. Upon graduation, she completed both her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residencies at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She earned her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2014. Dr. Rife is a Clinical Pharmacist in the Liver/Gastroenterology Clinic where her role has evolved from a focus on hepatitis C to broader support of these disease states. She has been highly involved in various research and quality improvement projects using Lean Six-Sigma methodology. As the Clinical Program Manager of Academic Affairs, she chairs the Residency Advisory Committee (RAC), supervises the pharmacy intern program, and coordinates preceptor development. Dr. Rife is a Clinical Instructor of Pharmacy Practice at Northeast Ohio Medical University, and serves as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. She remains active in both the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy (OCCP), holding various leadership positions including the 2019 President of OCCP and incoming Chair-Elect for the ACCP GI/Liver/Nutrition PRN.

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Jennifer Roche, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager

Dr. Roche graduated from the University of Maryland in May 2002 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She then completed an ASHP accredited specialty residency in psychiatric pharmacy practice at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She has been a board certified psychiatric pharmacy specialist since 2005. She currently works as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry and Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She is also a member of the P&T committee, Clozapine Treatment Team, Disruptive Behavior Board and Pain Care Advisory Board.

Melissa A. Rock, Pharm.D., BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Psychiatry

Dr. Rock obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree and minor in Chemistry in 2013 and her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree in 2015 from the University of Toledo. She then completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center and then continued her training in an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Following residency, Dr. Rock worked as the first Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital until June 2018. She returned to work as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry at the VA Northeast Ohio Akron Outpatient Clinic in August 2018. Her responsibilities include providing psychiatry medication management to community based outpatient clinics, collaboration with mental health providers to evaluate drug therapy, responding to drug information requests, completing non-formularies, and serving as a preceptor for pharmacy residents and students. Dr. Rock earned her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2017. She is an active member of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Mandy Roesel, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Roesel earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Duquesne University in 2008. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOMS). She is currently an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VANEOMS and has been in this role since completion of her residency. She provides clinical pharmacy services for the inpatient internal medicine wards. Duties include collaborating with providers to evaluate drug therapy and monitoring, performing admission and transfer medication reconciliation assessments, participating in interdisciplinary team rounds, and ensuring appropriate medication use while inpatient and at transition of care. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy residents and pharmacy students when rotating on internal medicine. She is also a resident mentor. Additionally, she is involved with patient safety activities including reviewing medication incidents submitted to the medical center and serving as a member of the Medication Management Committee. She is also a member of the Medication Use Evaluation committee and an ad-hoc member of the Residency Advisory Committee, serving as the chair of the interview subcommittee.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs
Faculty Biographies

Rikki Rychel, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE, BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Ambulatory Care

Director, PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Rychel received her B.S. in Biology from Syracuse University in 2005 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The Ohio State University in 2009. She went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, Ohio in 2010. Dr. Rychel began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in 2013, and transitioned to Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Ambulatory Care in 2019. She continues to practice in the Wade Park Primary Care Clinic, providing disease state management for chronic ambulatory care conditions. Dr. Rychel also serves as the residency program director for the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program, as a preceptor for PGY-1 pharmacy residents and as a preceptor for PharmD candidates from various colleges of pharmacy. She received her Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2011, became a Certified Diabetes Educator in 2013 and became a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist in 2019.

Katherine (Katie) Salay, Pharm.D., BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Director, PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Salay earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University in 2012. She then completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS). She has been in her current position as an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist since completion of her residency, where she provides clinical pharmacy services for the patients on the internal medicine wards. Daily duties include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing admission and transfer medication reconciliation, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy and PGY-2 ID and geriatrics residents during their months rotating on internal medicine, as well as pharmacy students. She assumed the role of PGY-1 Residency Program Director for the 2018-19 residency class. She is also involved in numerous other activities including serving as a residency mentor, a member of the VANEOHS's Pharmacy Residency Advisory Committee (RAC), and Pharmacy Service's representative on the Joint Commission Disease Specific Certification – Inpatient Diabetes group.

Lindsay Salsburg, Pharm.D., BCACP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Salsburg received her Bachelor of Science in Integrated Life Sciences from Kent State University in 2004 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from The Ohio States University in 2009. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 ambulatory care focused residency at Kaiser Permanente in Parma, Ohio. Immediately following residency, Dr Salsburg worked as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in ambulatory care at the Kaiser Permanente Chapel Hill and Fairlawn medical offices, which then became part of HealthSpan in October 2013. Dr Salsburg joined the VANEOHS as a PACT Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in August 2016 and currently holds this position. She practices full-time at the Akron CBOC with current responsibilities that include disease state management (with a focus on diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia), drug information, and non-formulary requests. Dr. Salsburg serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students and received her Board Certification in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy (BCACP) in 2011.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs
Faculty Biographies

Sharanie V. Sims, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCIDP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases

Director, PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program

Dr. Sims received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences from The Ohio State University in 2003 and her Doctor of Pharmacy in 2007 from Howard University in Washington, D.C. After graduation, she completed her PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System and a PGY-2 Infectious Disease Pharmacy Residency at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH . After completing her residencies, Dr. Sims joined the faculty at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) as an assistant professor and Infectious Diseases/Internal Medicine clinical pharmacist at Marymount Hospital. In 2010, she returned to the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, where she is currently the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Infectious Disease. She provides clinical pharmacy services to the Inpatient Infectious Disease Consult Service, Infectious Disease Outpatient Clinic, and the Home IV Antibiotic Therapy program. She serves as the PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency program director as well as preceptor for the PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residents and students on infectious disease rotations. Dr. Sims is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist with added qualifications in Infectious Diseases and certification in Advanced Antimicrobial Stewardship from MAD-ID. Her interest include Gram-negative resistance, mycology, and infections in the immunocompromised host.

Mandy Weber, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Critical Care and Cardiology

Dr. Weber earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in 2009. After graduation, she completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEHOS). After residency, she stayed at VANEHOS as an Emergency Medicine clinical pharmacy specialist until 2018. Duties included medication reconciliation, patient and staff education, formulary management, emergency response, , precepting and antimicrobial stewardship (through a pharmacy-driven ED culture follow up program she developed). In 2018, she transitioned to a Critical Care and Cardiology clinical pharmacy specialist position. Current duties include participating in rounds, medication reconciliation, drug monitoring, formulary management, emergency response and precepting pharmacy residents and students. She is a member of the CPR Committee and Parenteral Nutrition Committee.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs Faculty Biographies

Candice Wenzell, Pharm.D., BCOP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Internal Medicine

Dr. Wenzell received a PharmD from Ohio Northern University in 2009. She then went on to complete a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency at Cleveland Clinic followed by a PGY2 Hematology/Oncology residency at The Ohio State University. From 2011 to 2013, she worked at Cleveland Clinic as the inpatient leukemia pharmacist. She joined the VANEOS as the hematology/oncology clinical pharmacy specialist in 2013 and transitioned to an internal medicine clinical pharmacy specialist in 2018. Her daily responsibilities include collaborating with and educating providers to ensure appropriate medication therapy, participation in interdisciplinary team rounds, performing admission and transfer medication reconciliation, pharmacokinetic drug monitoring and dosing, reviewing prior authorization drug requests, answering drug information questions, and more. She precepts PGY-1 pharmacy, PGY-2 ID residents, and pharmacy students during their months rotating in internal medicine, as well as providing topic discussions for oncology rotations. She coordinates the Comparative Effectiveness of Medical Interventions Committee which reviews high cost medications under consideration for use at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She is also a member of the Research committee. Dr. Wenzell is Board Certified in Oncology. She was awarded the "Preceptor of the Year Award" by the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System pharmacy residency class of 2017. Dr. Wenzell is an active member of the Hematology Oncology Pharmacists Association (HOPA), serving as a member of the Publications Committee from 2013-2016 and 2018-2020, member of the Professional Development Committee from 2016-2017, and chair of the Resource Library Subcommittee (2017-2018).

Rachel Wilden, Pharm.D.

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Emergency Department

Dr. Wilden received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Butler University in 2016. After graduation, she completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY-2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Following residency, Dr. Wilden began her current position at VANEOS as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Emergency Medicine. Responsibilities include interdisciplinary collaboration, medication reconciliation, emergency response, drug information, antimicrobial stewardship, patient counseling, formulary management, and precepting Emergency Medicine elective residency rotation and APPE rotations. Dr. Wilden's practice interests include internal medicine, emergency medicine, transitions of care, and quality improvement.

Robert J. Willborn, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, BCPP

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist- Mental Health

Bob received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (2013), Master of Public Health (2015), and Doctor of Pharmacy (2016) from North Dakota State University. He subsequently completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System in Denver, Colorado and an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System in Cleveland, Ohio. Following residency, Bob has worked as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Mental Health within the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System's community-based outpatient clinics, located in Sandusky and Lorain. His responsibilities include providing mental health medication management, drug therapy collaboration and consultation with other mental health providers, addressing outpatient drug information requests, completing non-formulary drug requests, and serving as a preceptor. Bob earned his Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy in 2017 and his Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy in 2018.