




VCU Health Resident Profiles 2024 - 2025


PGY1 Pharmacy Residents

Name	Sterling Baumgarten, PharmD	
PharmD Education	VCU Health School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Characterization of the use of urine culture history for recurrent UTIs in the emergency department	
Professional Interests	Internal medicine and critical care	
Program Involvement	ASHP Midyear Meeting	
Why VCU Health System?	I was confident that VCU Health would give me the resources I need to be successful during residency! All the preceptors are supportive and practice at the top of their field. I also liked the academic medical center environment and the close relationship with VCU School of Pharmacy.	
Why Richmond?	Richmond is the best! There is always something to do. There are so many great restaurants, outdoor activities, museums, etc. We are also an hour away from the mountains and beach!	


Name	Fadel Dadabaev, PharmD	
PharmD Education	Jefferson College of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Evaluation of Hydrocortisone Weaning Strategies in Patients with Septic Shock	
Professional Interests	Solid Organ Transplant, ICU, Cardiology, Infectious Diseases	
Program Involvement	Continuing Education Coordinator	
Why VCU Health System?	VCU Health is a well-regarded academic medical center that serves as a platform for growth for many healthcare professionals. The major driving factor for choosing the VCU Health System for me was the team of caring and knowledgeable preceptors who showed their enthusiasm for teaching and precepting during my interactions with them at multiple professional sessions. Their commitment to education and mentorship aligns with my own passion for learning and professional development. Additionally, the complexity of disease states that VCU manages provides a challenging and stimulating environment that I believe will enhance my clinical skills!	
Why Richmond?	Richmond offers a vibrant community, rich history, and close proximity to nature, perfect for my love of hiking. The city's beautiful scenery and diversity of restaurants make it an exciting place to live. Additionally, its location provides easy access to mountains and the coast for weekend getaways. Richmond's unique blend of urban and natural amenities makes it ideal for my residency.	


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Name	Shelbie Dunivan, PharmD	
PharmD Education	VCU Health School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Evaluation of the use of CAL-asparagase versus pegaspargase and delay in subsequent chemo cycle in pediatric oncology patients	
Professional Interests	Hematology/Oncology, Pediatric Hematology Oncology	
Program Involvement	Residency Website and Newsletter Coordinator	
Why VCU Health System?	Through school I got to experience what VCU Health had to offer and I immediately was drawn to it. Not only are the preceptors here wonderful, but the institution is very pharmacy friendly, creating a great learning environment for students and residents.	
Why Richmond?	I am a Richmond native so it has been great to watch the city grow throughout my life. Richmond has a little bit of everything, satisfying many interests and hobbies from art to sports and outdoor activities. It has an amazing food scene and music scene.	

Name	Ryan Masak, PharmD	
PharmD Education	VCU Health School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Evaluating Empiric Vancomycin Initiation in the Emergency Department	
Professional Interests	Critical Care, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics	
Program Involvement	Education and Development Series Coordinator	
Why VCU Health System?	During the PGY-1 application process, I explored various health systems outside of Richmond, but I quickly realized that VCU Health was where I would thrive. The supportive and encouraging environment here is unmatched. The preceptors and healthcare professionals at VCU Health have a genuine passion for teaching and always take the time to get to know us on a personal level. The combination of professional development and personal connection made VCU Health the perfect place for me.	
Why Richmond?	Although I have lived in Richmond for my entire life outside of undergrad, I am constantly discovering new things to see and do here. There's something for everyone to do here, from watching baseball games with the Richmond Flying Squirrels, visiting some of the great breweries or restaurants, or visiting some museums and learning more about the history behind the city! Anything that isn't directly in the city itself is a short distance away, with the beach, mountains, and Washington DC all 1-2 hours away.	

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Name	Amy Miller, PharmD	
PharmD Education	University of South Carolina	
Residency Research Project	Characterization of Initiation Dosing for Acute Venous Thromboembolism	
Professional Interests	Cardiology, Critical Care, Pediatrics	
Program Involvement	Residency Social Media Networking Coordinator	
Why VCU Health System?	During my VCU interview I could already feel the support that I was going to have as a resident. All of the preceptors were extremely nice and welcoming which continues to be true now that I am a resident. I wanted to be at an academic medical center where I would be pushed and challenged as a new pharmacist. VCU has certainly challenged me and I feel that the training I receive here will carry me far.	
Why Richmond?	Richmond is a great city! It's big without feeling overwhelming and has lots of activities going on all the time. You're close to the beach, mountains, and Washington D.C if you want more of a big city feel. There's a lot of food and shopping to explore as well!	

Name	Macy Murren, PharmD	
PharmD Education	VCU Health School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Evaluation of Tenecteplase Use and Outcomes in Patients Admitted for Acute Ischemic Stroke	
Professional Interests	Hematology/Oncology, Internal Medicine	
Program Involvement	Residency Interviews	
Why VCU Health System?	I was lucky to have my APPE rotations at VCUHS as a P4 student and meet some of the wonderful preceptors that are so dedicated to teaching and the development of students and residents. I also really enjoy the interprofessional environment offered by VCU in every aspect of patient care.	
Why Richmond?	I am originally from Richmond and love the area so much that I wanted to stay! There is so much to do in the city and surrounding areas including amazing restaurants and breweries, entertainment venues, and tons of outdoor activities.	

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Health-System Pharmacy Administration

Name	Dan Elkes, PharmD, MBA
PharmD Education	University of Florida
Residency Research Project	Evaluation of initial pediatric vancomycin dosing protocol
Professional Interests	Inpatient operations, informatics, medication safety
Program Involvement	Residency Calendar Coordinator




Why VCU Health System?	VCU Health has a strong commitment to resident wellbeing and overall education. The residency program works closely with the School of Pharmacy to engage us to not only be better learners, but teachers as well. VCU Health is a growing enterprise and a true health-system with a diverse leadership group which pursues excellence of care and prioritizes patient and team member safety.
Why Richmond?	Richmond offers many big-city highlights with a smaller-city feel. The city is walkable and the surrounding counties are well-spaced. Nearly any place you'd need to go is a brief drive away at most, with DC and VA Beach each only a couple hours away. Most importantly, the people are friendly and welcoming, which helped my transition to RVA from out of state.

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PGY2 Pharmacy Residents

Health-System Pharmacy Administration

Name	Anjali Talwar, PharmD	
PGY1 Training	VCU Health	
PharmD Education	Palm Beach Atlantic University Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Optimizing a Pharmacy To-Dose Vancomycin Workflow to Enhance Pharmacist Performance	
Professional Interests	Operation management inpatient, Infusion services; 340B, Personnel Development, Pediatrics, Project and strategy management	
Program Involvement	Residency Banquet and Recognition, ASHP Pharmacy Administration and Leadership Residents' Collaborative Advisory Group	
Why VCU Health System?	I chose VCU Health because I felt immediately welcomed by the management staff. During my interview, the team demonstrated commitment and understanding not only to my formal training/education that would happen during my time here but, my personal interests and wellness as well. There seemed to be many mentors and guides who had experience with a combined program such as this who I could refer to. Since my arrival here, I like to say VCU and Richmond have welcomed me with a big hug, which I can stand by even till this day.	
Why Richmond?	In all honesty, VCU Health brought me to Richmond. I am happy that it did because this city is unique in many ways. There is always something going on, new things to do and see. Most of all the food scene here has been nothing short of diverse and delicious, which has been a huge plus point for a foodie like me. It is a kind city with much to see and I am looking forward to further exploring it.	

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Ambulatory

Name	Jonathan H. Boucher, PharmD
PGY1 Training	Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI – Ambulatory Focus
PharmD Education	UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Chapel Hill, NC
Residency Research Project	Expanded Real World Experience with Letemovir in Kidney Transplant Patients
Professional Interests	Primary Care, Cardiology, Rheumatology, GI/Hepatology
Program Involvement	Residency Town Hall Coordinator



Why VCU Health System?	I was very interested in the longitudinal aspects of the Ambulatory Care program! Being able to take care of patients over the course of weeks/months/years is foundational to Amb Care practice, and I'm excited to get such breadth and depth of experience here at VCU!
Why Richmond?	Richmond is a unique, young, and vibrant city! There is so much history, so many great restaurants and shops, and great museums here that you can't get bored.


Critical Care

Name	Anastasia Borodai, PharmD, MPH
PGY1 Training	VCU Health
PharmD Education	UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Chapel Hill, NC
Residency Research Project	Methylnaltrexone use in critically ill patients
Professional Interests	Critical Care- NSCICU, MRICU, STICU
Program Involvement	RAM Coordinator, Residency Social Media Networking Coordinator, Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (VSHP)




Why VCU Health System?	I was drawn to VCU Health for the diverse patients and disease states. My passion lies in critical care therefore I wanted to pursue a PGY1 where I could see a variety of disease states at all levels of acuity and see how pharmacists can impact patient care. VCU also had some of the most engaging and down to earth preceptors I spoke to when interviewing, now as a resident this continues to be true. Our preceptors push us, but also take the time to know us as individuals.
Why Richmond?	I loved the food and the general vibe of Richmond. Whether you like being outdoors, sports, food, or just lounging there is always something for everyone. I also like being close to the mountains and beach.


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Name	Riley Chafer, PharmD, MBA	
PGY1 Training	Medical University Of South Carolina	
PharmD Education	Medical University Of South Carolina	
Residency Research Project	Evaluating Sternal Wound Infections and Protocols at VCU Health	
Professional Interests	Medical Intensive Care Unit, Trauma Intensive Care Unit	
Program Involvement	Journal Club and Case Conference liaison	
Why VCU Health System?	I was blown away during the interview process and felt that I knew everyone for years. I knew that critical care training was going to be a hard year so I wanted a program where I knew I would feel supported. I also wanted to continue my training in an academic medical center where I would be involved in teaching teams and dealing with complex patient cases. VCU truly ticked all my boxes when searching for a PGY2 program.	
Why Richmond?	Admittedly never being to Richmond prior to matching at VCU was a little scary, but since moving here I have nothing but good things to say. We have awesome restaurants, great outdoor activities, only a short distance to the beach, mountains, and Washington so you really have everything you could need.	


Internal Medicine

Name	Leah Baker, PharmD	
PGY1 Training	VCU Health	
PharmD Education	UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Evaluation of Steroid-Induced Hyperglycemia Protocol	
Professional Interests	Internal Medicine, Cardiology	
Program Involvement	Residency Website and Newsletter, Anticoagulation Safety Committee	
Why VCU Health System?	It was obvious from my first encounters with preceptors and previous residents at VCU that it was an environment of overwhelming support. Also, I instantly felt very welcome even from my initial interview and have continued to feel this way since beginning residency. I appreciate the passion that preceptors here have and have enjoyed learning from them thus far.	
Why Richmond?	Richmond is such an eclectic city that I have really grown to enjoy. The restaurant scene is ever expanding and therefore my list of restaurant recommendations is constantly growing! There are so many outdoorsy activities right in the city too for when you need a breath of fresh air. It's such a fun place to live and there's always something to do!	


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Name	Addison Taylor, PharmD	
PGY1 Training	VCU Health	
PharmD Education	VCU Health School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Evaluation of Clinical Variation in Heart Failure GDMT Prescribing Practices at an Academic Medical Center	
Professional Interests	Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Hepatology/GI	
Program Involvement	Research, Vizient Posters, & Research Project Symposium	
Why VCU Health System?	I greatly enjoyed my experience both as a student on P4 rotations at VCUHS and a PGY1 resident last year. I appreciated being in an environment that both challenges me to grow and supports me through helpful feedback and advice. The preceptors at VCUHS offer a conducive environment to learn and help guide and support our clinical development. I also really liked being a part of a residency program that encourages and fosters strong friendships between co-residents.	
Why Richmond?	I have lived in Richmond since undergraduate school and have grown to appreciate how unique the city is compared to places I have lived before. Richmond boasts amazing restaurants and breweries, with something for everyone. I have always appreciated the walking/hiking trails in the area, which became one of my favorite weekend activities. You are about 1-2 hours away from the mountains, the ocean, and larger cities like Washington DC. Each year I am here, I find something new to love about the city!	


Oncology

Name	Nathan Falls, PharmD	
PGY1 Training	VCU Health	
PharmD Education	Mercer University College of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Evaluation of Chemotherapy Dose Rounding, Cost Analysis, and Time Optimization	
Professional Interests	Hematology, Cellular Immunotherapy and Transplant	
Program Involvement	Midyear Clinical Meeting Committee	
Why VCU Health System?	I realized early on that VCU has a large group of caring preceptors who are eager to teach and were very supportive of their residents. VCU also offers a wide variety of pharmacy practice areas so that I could maximize my PGY-1 experience and work at the top of my license.	
Why Richmond?	Richmond is one of the best “hidden gems” in the entire country! There are so many different restaurants, museums, breweries, and other recreational activities available around the city. Richmond is also very pedestrian friendly with a low cost of living compared to other major cities.	

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Name	Kelsey Oberholtzer, PharmD	
PGY1 Training	VCU Health	
PharmD Education	VCU School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Ceftriaxone and Azithromycin Compared to Ceftriaxone for Acute Chest Syndrome in Pediatric Patients with Sickle Cell Disease	
Professional Interests	Oncology, pediatrics, and cardiology	
Program Involvement	Interview Committee	
Why VCU Health System?	I wanted to continue my training at VCU health because of the wonderful experiences I had here as a student. The environment VCU provides is so conducive to learning from experts in the field. I also wanted to work with a diverse population including the underserved population in Richmond.	
Why Richmond?	I have lived in Richmond for four years and loved every minute of it so of course I wanted to stay! Richmond is full of wonderful restaurants, great walking and running trails, and tons of dog friendly places for the four-legged friends!	

Pediatrics


Name	Ashton O'Hara, PharmD	
PGY1 Training	VCU Health	
PharmD Education	UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Evaluation of an antifungal prophylaxis protocol for preventing invasive fungal infections in pediatric patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation	
Professional Interests	General Pediatrics, NICU, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology	
Program Involvement	Residency Interviews Committee, VSHP	
Why VCU Health System?	VCUHS is a welcoming and inclusive learning environment for residents. The preceptors are super welcoming and supportive. There are clinical pharmacists in a wide variety of clinical areas both in the adult and pediatric population, and I am so excited to be staying on within the health system for my PGY2!	
Why Richmond?	I lived in a college town for 8 years prior to moving to Richmond, and I love being in a city that is very walkable! There are a ton of great restaurants to try. I am a big fan of our minor league baseball team, the Richmond Flying Squirrels, and I enjoy watching a variety of musicals and shows at the Altria Theater!	

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Psychiatry

Name	Erika Quesinberry, PharmD	
PGY1 Training	Mental Health Focused PGY1 at Biloxi, MS Veteran's Affairs Medical Center	
PharmD Education	University of Florida – Orlando Campus	
Residency Research Project	Comparison of Atypical Antipsychotics for Autism Spectrum Irritability and Impact on Weight Gain	
Professional Interests	Pediatric Psychiatry, Mood Disorders	
Program Involvement	Residency Social Networking & Recruitment	
Why VCU Health System?	I was drawn to the Psychiatric PGY2 at VCU Health due to the variety of psychiatric learning experiences, such as pediatrics, at a large academic medical institution.	
Why Richmond?	Richmond is a great blend of urban and suburban life! It has all the perks of a thriving metropolis, such as, an active live music scene and tons of restaurants. The location is ideal for day trips to the mountains for hiking or site seeking in DC.	

Solid Organ Transplant

Name	Nicholas Truong, PharmD	
PGY1 Training	University of Illinois Chicago	
PharmD Education	University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy	
Residency Research Project	Belatacept in Elderly (≥ 60 years old) Kidney Transplant Recipients	
Professional Interests	Solid Organ Transplant, Infectious Diseases/HIV	
Program Involvement	Residency Wellness and Resiliency Coordinator, American Society of Transplantation (AST), American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Transplant PRN	
Why VCU Health System?	From my interview to now, everyone has been so welcoming! The diverse patient population and wide variety of transplant clinical experiences is what drew me to VCU Health System. The preceptors are here to guide and support you, but also challenge you to become a confident and adept clinical pharmacist!	
Why Richmond?	There is something for everyone here, from great food to music to sports and outdoor activities! Richmond is still a big enough city to have that "city feel." It is also close to Virginia Beach, Washington DC, Baltimore, and other nearby cities, which make for easy weekend trips!	