

What teaching opportunities are available?

Our teaching experience is provided through the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy. The residents have been involved in this program for over 10 years. Pharmacy students are required to complete five semesters of Pharmaceutical Care Labs and our residents serve as teaching assistants for two semesters. These courses provide hands-on activities to facilitate training and use teaching assistants to oversee each group of 10-12 students. They ensure that all of the students participate and learn the key points from each activity. Residents completing this teaching experience have the ability to motivate students, provide professional feedback, and facilitate discussions.

What is the staffing component?

Our residency staffing component is equivalent to 32 hours per month. This comprises of every third weekend and one business evening every two weeks. The weekday evening is spent in the central pharmacy, ensuring that all of the oral syringes are checked, answering clinical questions from the floor, attending all codes, and verifying physician orders. The pharmacy practice residents' weekends are focused in the central pharmacy and the specialty residents' weekends are decentralized, rounding on their respective patients and other patients.

What happens during orientation?

All of the pharmacy residents (both pharmacy practice and specialty) will have a week-long orientation conducted as one group. Not only does this allow for the program to be reviewed once and all questions answered, but it promotes early resident-bonding. On the first day of the residency, each resident will be given a notebook that will have the expectations for the entire year. This includes all of the deadlines and staffing shifts. Following the week of program orientation, each resident will be trained in central pharmacy and their respective specialty area. All of the orientation activities will take place during the month of July, allowing for resident rotations to begin in August.

Do you have opportunities to volunteer in the community?

We do provide our residents a unique opportunity to volunteer at a local free clinic at least 3-4 times during the year. The Interfaith Council (IFC) shelter is located just off of historic Franklin Street and provides housing, meals, a weekly free clinic and a psychiatric clinic to its residents. Each clinic is staffed by a clinic coordinator, a nurse, a physician, a pharmacy student and a pharmacist. This is an excellent opportunity to help disadvantaged patients, help the physicians with medication decisions and precept students during the dispensing and counseling process.

What is the residency research process?

The pharmacy practice resident will be provided a list of research projects upon the beginning of their year. The resident will use this list and interactions with mentors to select a suitable project by mid-August. The resident will present an overview of the research project to the residency research committee. This committee is composed of hospital and school of pharmacy individuals and they work to help guide the resident in study design, data collection, or statistical methodology. Every two months, the resident will provide the committee with a status update. Also, the committee will help the resident assimilate the data for the residency research conference presentation. In addition, the resident will need to submit a manuscript in publishable form prior to completing the year.

What is the role of the mentor?

Each resident will have more mentors than they could imagine. Beyond the preceptors, your research project mentor, your presentation mentor, and your residency program directors, each resident will select a mentor to guide you throughout the year. Each specialty resident is required to choose a mentor outside of your area of interest. The mentor is an individual that you can ask questions; that can provide guidance; or that is a listening ear. The mentor will be someone that will be there for the resident throughout the day and course of the year.

Do your residents have an overnight on-call program?

While our residency program does not have an in-house on-call program, the residents do participate in our departmental on-call program. We offer an on-call program to our physicians, nurses, and pharmacy department for all adult patients. The types of calls that are referred to the service are those that require significant time to research or a specialized knowledge base not in the pharmacy at that time. Each resident (excluding the pediatrics and primary care resident) will rotate through primary on-call responsibilities. It will be a total of at least 4 weeks for each resident. The resident will be available 24 hours a day and will have back-up pharmacist at all times.

Do you support Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) certification?

Our residency program strongly promotes BCPS certification and we have had many of our residents complete the BCPS exam during their specialty year. Every year interested residents form a study group and outline the topics to be discussed on a weekly basis. They assign a topic to each participant and that individual is responsible for explaining that material to their fellow residents. It is a great way to get to know your fellow residents and learn from each other. After the exam, our preceptors usually have a BCPS party for the residents to celebrate and then the residents eagerly await their BCPS pins!

Where do your residents go after UNC?

While our expertise is in training patient care providers, residents leaving our programs have gone into many different directions. Many of them have taken clinical pharmacist positions in all corners of the country. Some are even practicing overseas. In addition, other residents have taken faculty positions, some have gone to specialty residencies (both at UNC and other places), and others went for more education (fellowships or graduate school). One thing is certain when finishing our program, your options are endless and there are many contacts we can provide to you.

What is the ropes course?

The ropes course is a regular part of our first week of orientation. It occurs at the UNC Outdoor Educational Center (<http://campusrec.unc.edu/OEC/>). We complete the low ropes course and it's one of the most enjoyable activities the residents do each year. We work on our teamwork skills, our communication (both verbal and non-verbal), and get to know each other better. We move out of our comfort zones and begin to see your colleagues as friends. Each resident looks back on this activity as an important part of their team building experience.

Do you have a residency trip?

Another highlight of the year is the residency trip, which allows the residents to visit 2-3 residency programs. There is no geographic limitation but they usually choose institutions that are within driving distance. They contact the programs and set up tours, luncheons, etc. with the host institution. This is always a fun trip and it allows for resident bonding and creating new contacts at other institutions. Afterward, the residents usually take a weekend break and go to the beach, hiking, whitewater rafting, shopping, etc. They then report back to our program about the trip which helps enrich our residency program and our department of pharmacy.

How do you evaluate your residents?

There are many opportunities to be evaluated throughout the year. From each of your rotations to your presentations, research project, and staffing, you will be provided with feedback on your progress and how to improve. You will also have the opportunity to evaluate yourself and your preceptors.

What is Peter Poison Proofer?

This tradition allows our residents to train elementary students in poison prevention. Every Tuesday and Thursday, local second graders are brought to UNC Hospitals for a ½ day experience. They read x-rays, make a cast at the cast shop, watch a video and get our training session. Residents sign-up to perform 3-5 of these sessions during the year and are provided a script, a bag of

supplies and certificates for the students. It is always a hilarious experience since the children are so funny and inquisitive. And the students are always excited about getting their official Peter Poison Proofer certificates.

Do you prefer UNC graduates?

We do not have a preference of the school where the student graduated. We have had excellent residents that graduated from UNC and excellent residents who did not. We want individuals that are well-rounded and have demonstrated leadership in many areas. Unfortunately, it is impossible to predict the match, so some residency classes have more people from one area and not another.