The UF Health Shands Pharmacy Residency Newsletter

Meet the New Director of Pharmacy

Dr. Thomas Johns was named UF Health Shands Hospital Director of Pharmacy Services (DOP) in March of 2014. He is the fourth DOP at Shands Hospital since 1983. This appointment follows a 1 year stint as Interim DOP and 14 years of service as Assistant DOP at UF Health Shands Hospital. Dr. Johns, or “Tom” as he might ask you to call him, has an extensive list of personal and academic accomplishments. After graduating from the University of Florida (UF) College of Pharmacy, he completed an internal medicine pharmacy residency at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida. One year after completing his residency, Tom accepted a position as an Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases specialist at Shands. After a few years in the trenches, Tom began the road towards directorship as Assistant DOP in 1999.

Tom says he never really desired to be the DOP until he got his feet wet as Interim DOP in 2013. When asked what the best part of being DOP is, Tom said, “Watching other people develop personally and professionally.” He enjoys working at Shands because of the emphasis placed upon quality, safety, and patient outcomes. Tom aims to build a strong leadership team to set the foundation for future growth. From a patient care standpoint, Tom’s immediate goal is to ensure every patient is provided appropriate pharmacy resources to achieve positive outcomes and prevent adverse drug events.

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UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital

This past January UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital celebrated the grand opening of its pediatric cardiac intensive care unit (ICU), also known as the Pediatric Congenital Heart Center. At 18,000 square feet, the unit includes 23 private patient rooms which resemble studio apartments, each with its own bathroom, shower, television, and even gaming system. This new and fully-equipped pediatric cardiac ICU will allow us to fulfill our mission to provide high quality care to children with congenital heart disease and their families within the state of Florida. This innovative and healing space will employ the most advanced technologies with collaborative multidisciplinary care.

Our pediatric program is one of the largest in Florida both in number of admissions as well as patient days. UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital offers various services from basic medical care to highly specialized surgical care. The opening of this unit marks a momentous occasion for UF Health Shands Hospital. We are proud of what we have accomplished for our children and look forward to continuing the excellence of our stellar faculty and staff with state-of-the-art facilities in our children’s hospital!

Jimin Lee
Meet the New Director of the Center for Pharmacogenomics

The Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research is pleased to announce Dr. Larisa H. Cavallari as the new Director of the Center for Pharmacogenomics as of April 2014.

Dr. Cavallari received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Georgia. She subsequently completed a pharmacy practice residency at the VA Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee. She sought further training through a fellowship in cardiovascular pharmacogenomics at the University of Florida, where she was awarded the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Clinical Pharmacy Post-PharmD Fellowship in Biomedical Research Sciences. In her previous position, Dr. Cavallari was an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She also served as Co-Director of the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System Pharmacogenetics Service. She is a member of the UIC Honors College, Center for Pharmacoeconomics, Research, and Institute of Human Genetics.

Dr. Cavallari’s research interests are in the area of cardiovascular pharmacotherapy and pharmacogenetics and have historically focused on underserved populations. She has authored over 80 original research manuscripts, invited reviews, editorials, and book chapters. Dr. Cavallari is also editor for the recently published book, Pharmacogenomics: Challenges and Opportunities in Therapeutic Implementation. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), American Heart Association (AHA), American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), and other foundation awards. She has served on a number of NIH and AHA grant review committees and is a fellow of ACCP, elected Trustee and current Chair of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Research Institute, member of the International Warfarin Pharmacogenetics Consortium, affiliate member of the Pharmacogenomics Research Network, and Editorial Board Member for Future Cardiology and the Lexi-Comp Inc Pharmacogenetics Series.

Conferences Galore

This year the UF Health pharmacy residents and preceptors attended an array of specialty and pharmacy conferences.

**Interscience Conference on Antimicrobials and Chemotherapy (ICAAC):** Denver, Colorado - September 2013, Attendants: PGY2 Infectious Disease (ID) resident, Joe Pardo and ID specialist Sam Borgert. Joe presented the results of his PGY1 project evaluating vancomycin versus daptomycin for MRSA bacteremia. While the conference contained discussion on many infectious disease topics, the UF Health group was particularly intrigued by emerging data on colistin dosing. Outside the conference, the group enjoyed views of the Rockies and delicious cheesecake.

**American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacy (ASHP) Mid-Year Clinical Meeting:** Orlando, Florida - December 2013: Attendees: All current pharmacy residents and multiple pharmacy staff (pictured right). The residents searched for jobs or PGY2 residencies through the personnel placement services (PPS) offered at the convention. The residents also discussed the residency program with potential candidates during the hallmark showcase event. Pharmacy administration interviewed for a variety of positions including an Oncology Clinical Specialist and Critical Care Chief. On the final evening, all UF Health staff gathered for a family dinner at Jimmy Buffet’s Margaritaville located at Universal Studio’s City Walk.

**Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM):** San Francisco, California - January 2014: Attendants: PGY2 Critical Care resident, Justin Roth, MICU specialist, Jessica Cope, SICU specialist, Abigail Antigua, and PICU specialist, Brian Kelly. Jessica presented the results of her PGY2 research project evaluating fondaparinux use in critically ill patients with severe renal impairment. The conference was notable for presenting emerging data on the use of micronutrients (selenium and zinc) in sepsis as well as summarizing updates for treating ICU delirium. The group also visited local sites such as Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge.

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Recent Posters and Publications

Presentations

Cope J, Gowler A. Lysing a Clinical Controversy: Thrombolitics in Submassive Pulmonary Embolism. Presented at Critical Care Medicine Grand Rounds in June 2014, UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville, FL.


Posters


Publications


Obeng AO. Weitzel KW, Hatton RC, Staley BJ, Ashton JN, Cooper-DeHoff RM, Johnson JA. Emerging Roles for Pharmacists in Clinical Implementation of Pharmacogenomics. Pharmacotherapy. [publication in progress]


Please send any recent publications or presentations you have completed to shandspharm@shands.ufl.edu Share your successes with others!
Where Are They Now?

In professional news...

...Lyn Villanueva Tucker accepted a position as a Pediatric ED pharmacist at Wolfson Children’s Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida...

...Lisa Thames was promoted to Assistant Director, Clinical Pharmacy Services at UF Health Shands Hospital and was also elected as Florida Residency Conference (FRC) Chair-Elect...

...Kalen Manasco was awarded the Spirit of PPAG Award at the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group Annual Meeting...

...Jennifer Ashton, Jennifer Bushwitz, Joseph Pardo, Justin Roth, and Matthew Logan Wright are now Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists!...

On a more personal note...

...Congratulations to Shimaa Ghonim who married Osman Bayindir in January 2014...

...Lyn Villanueva who married Calvin Tucker in March 2014...

...Jessica Cope who married Alan Blackwell in April 2014...

...Joseph Pardo who married Kristyn Pardo in May 2014...

...Kalen Manasco for her second baby girl, Laenna Barbara Manasco, born in March 2014...

...Stephanie Worrall who got engaged to Tyler Zack in June 2014...

...Danielle Wallace Lazear and husband, Robbie, who are expecting a baby in December!...

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Looking Forward to the Future

And just like that, another year has passed! Time marches on, and so do our residents.

Janet Arrazcaeta (PGY2 Oncology Resident) has accepted the Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist position that will be vacated by Edmund Walden retiring in September! She is excited about the opportunity to precept and teach students and residents about how awesome it is to care for oncology patients.

Ginger Gamble (PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident) will be staying on at UF Health Shands as a PGY2 Critical Care Resident. She is looking forward to practicing in her area of interest, rotating through the different ICUs, and continuing to explore Florida!

Ben Kong (PGY2 Pharmacogenomics Resident) will be working as an on-call pharmacist with Portland Providence Medical Center in Portland, Oregon as he searches for his dream job! He is looking forward to starting clinical pharmacogenomic services at the local health-system level and with colleges of pharmacy. He is sad to leave his great co-workers and preceptors who have trained him over the past year.

Jimin Lee (PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident) is looking forward to practicing pharmacy in her home country of South Korea! Although her exact position has yet to be determined, she is hoping to practice in an academic or hospital setting. Although she will miss her co-residents, preceptors, and the Florida weather, she is excited about being close to her family and friends after 10 years in the United States.

Ji Yeon Lee (PGY2 Pediatrics Resident) will be moving to the Lone Star state! She is looking forward to her position as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Renal Transplantation and Nephrology at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. She is thrilled to be dedicating her professional life to pediatrics and for this upcoming challenge!

Joseph Pardo (PGY2 Infectious Diseases Resident) has accepted a position as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Infectious Diseases with the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. He will be starting an antimicrobial stewardship program focusing on the Gainesville VA, with opportunities to expand outwards. He is looking forward to being in Gainesville for a season of Gator football without having to staff D10, although is going to miss having ‘Fake Mochi’ located right above his office.

Justin Roth (PGY2 Critical Care Resident) will be headed out west for his new job as a Critical Care Clinical Specialist at San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield, California where he will focus on medical and surgical ICU’s. He is hoping there will be a Wendy’s in town so he doesn’t have to go without his favorite chicken wraps!

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Future - Continued

Jack Tran (PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident) will be heading down-the-road to Orlando where he will be a PGY2 Pediatric Pharmacy Practice Resident with Florida Hospital in Orlando. He will miss the Shands Pharmily and is looking forward to living near the ‘Happiest Place on Earth’!

Trang Trinh (PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident) will be staying on for a PGY2 in Infectious Diseases at UF Health Shands. She is looking forward to refining the necessary skills to combat the infectious microbes, especially those resistant buggers!

Teresa Vo (PGY2 Pharmacogenomics Resident) will be moving into an academic role as Assistant Professor and Co-Coordinator of Translational Pharmacogenomics at the University of South Florida College of Pharmacy. She is very excited about her new position, but will miss the personalized medicine program team here at UF Health Shands, as well as lunch at Chick-fil-a!

Stephanie Worrall (PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident) will be staying on as a PGY2 Critical Care Resident at UF Health Shands. She is looking forward to learning as much as she can throughout her PGY2 year, watching the Bulldogs beat the Gators for the 4th year in a row in Jacksonville, and planning a wedding in her spare time!

Meet the Residency Class of 2014-2015

PGY1 Residency Class

Kyle Franco graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island. She believes life’s most valuable lessons are learned from people, not from pages in a textbook and looks forward to a residency experience that will facilitate her growth both professionally and personally.

Shawn Griffin graduated with his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina. He is looking forward to being exposed to a variety of pharmacy specialties and finding his own niche after residency. While in Florida, he hopes to see an alligator!

Mark Lahey graduated with his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida and is a 2013-2014 UF Health Shands block student. In the upcoming year, he looks forward to improving his clinical skills and becoming more independent as a pharmacy practitioner.

Emily McCleary graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida and is a 2013-2014 UF Health Shands block student. She is looking forward to an exciting year with her fellow co-residents and learning from their unique pharmacy perspectives and experiences.

PGY2 Residency Class

Paul Furler received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Temple University and completed a PGY1 residency at Lancaster General Health in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He joins UF Health to pursue a specialty in oncology.

Allison Jones received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Purdue University and completed a PGY1 residency at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. She joins UF Health to pursue a specialty in pediatrics and is excited about the prospect of experiencing a winter without digging her car out of the snow!

Miguel Ramos received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida and completed a PGY1 residency at Azalea Health in Palatka, Florida. He joins the UF College of Pharmacy to pursue a specialty in pharmacogenetics and looks forward to expanding personalized medicine initiatives at UF Health.

Current UF Health Shands PGY1s, Ginger Gamble, Stephanie Worrall, and Trang Trinh will fulfill the Critical Care and Infectious Diseases PGY2 positions.

Join us in welcoming these individuals in their new roles!

Teresa Vo
Conferences - Continued

**Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA):** New Orleans, Louisiana - March 2014: Attendants: PGY2 Oncology resident, Janet Arrazcaeta, and oncology specialist, Laura Wiggins. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the pharmacy conference, which was celebrated with an extravagant New Orleans-style gala. The group was particularly intrigued by emerging data on melanoma treatment options. The conference concluded with a lecture from Laura titled ‘Recent Advances in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation’.

**Florida Residency Conference (FRC):** Gainesville, Florida – May 2014: Attendants: PGY1 residents. Joined by pharmacy residents from all over Florida, the UF Health PGY 1 residents presented findings from their research projects. Months of hard work and preparation paid off as the residents gave detailed descriptions of their study design, methods, statistical analysis, results, and conclusion. The conference social was held at the Florida Museum of Natural History where attendees enjoyed an assortment of appetizers and access to the butterfly garden.

**Pharmacy Pediatric Advocacy Group (PPAG):** Nashville, Tennessee – May 2014: Attendants: PGY2 Pediatrics resident, Ji Lee, and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology specialist, Tara Higgins. This year’s conference was largely oncology-based; Tara presented a lecture titled ‘Defibrotide for the prevention of hepatic veno-occlusive disease’. Ji presented data from her PGY 2 research project on antibiotics in children with perforated appendicitis.

DOP - Continued

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Tom has made significant contributions to our profession. He has published in highly respected journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association, Clinical Infectious Diseases, Annals of Pharmacotherapy and the American Journal of Health System Pharmacists. Currently, he is collaborating with researchers at the UF College of Pharmacy to develop a complexity score to identify hospitalized patients at high risk for preventable adverse drug events. This project is supported by a $500,000 grant from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation. Dr. Johns’ accomplishments are not limited to the workplace. While most of us know that Dr. Johns is a Shands Hospital veteran, some may not know that he is also a veteran. Tom provided nearly 20 years of service to our country in the US Army/Army Reserves, including active duty during the Persian Gulf War. Please welcome our “new” DOP, Dr. Thomas Johns!

Justin Roth

Ralphie’s Take...

Started from the bottom, now we here! The residency year has come and gone! Speaking of coming and going, does anyone know what happened to Murray? The last time I saw him, he was engulfed in the Grand Canyon of papers on Ji’s desk. Sigh…I’m going to miss Ji…and the other residents, who are leaving: Jimin, Jack, Joe, and Justin. I’ll miss Joe’s impossibly moist chocolate chip cookies, jamming out to Jack’s Pandora blasting through his Beats by Dre headphones, and Jimin’s unintentional and amusing humor. They are quite an eclectic group, but they made it work. It’s always easy to bond when enjoying ‘Fake Mochi’ Fridays. With that said, I’m ecstatic Stephanie and Ginger are staying in the office! I hope Trang will agree to stay as my financial consultant, even though she is less accessible, now that her office will be in the drug information center. I really want to open a roth IRA account to start saving for retirement! Personal shout out to Janet: Congratulations! South Tower is just across the tunnel – no excuses for not visiting at least biweekly.

It has been fun seeing them all grow personally and professionally. Good luck to all those pursuing PGY2s and those who have taken jobs making the big bucks! Here are my words of wisdom: “It’s your place in the world; it’s your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live.”

Ralphie G. Rilla
A Season of Change

Residency Director’s Corner

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often” – Winston Churchill

If the above statement is true, then the UF Health Shands Pharmacy Department is well on its way to perfection! All kidding aside, it’s pretty safe to say that the last year has been one of tremendous change for our department.

While we have had many talented people pass through our department, this last year was particularly memorable. In the last year, we have had almost complete turnover in our administrative team, and Tom Johns has now taken the reins as Director of Pharmacy Services. Joining Bill Harbilas at the Assistant Director (AD) level is Lisa Thames as AD for Clinical Services. She was formerly a Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist and Clinical Chief of Pediatrics at UF Health Shands. New to our institution are Alissa Voils and Ken Komorny, who will lead us as ADs for Operations.

Also new in the last year are the addition of six new Clinical Specialists: Joelle Nelson in Solid Organ Transplantation, Christopher Arp in Bone Marrow Transplantation, Amir Kamel in Nutrition Support, Kelliana O’Mara in the Neonatal ICU, Martina Holder in the Emergency Department, and Aimee Gowler in the Neurosurgical ICU. We now have a staggering (for us anyway) 22 clinical pharmacy specialists!

Given all that’s going on, it only seems fitting that we take advantage of this time of incredible change. Accordingly, we have begun to develop and are preparing to embark on a Strategic Plan that will carry us through the next three years. The major “pillars” of this plan are to: improve our operational efficiency, improve communication and the culture within our department, continue to grow our pharmacy practice model, and improve medication management across transitions in care to improve outcomes for our patients.

We are also happy to report that after recent accreditation survey of the Oncology and Infectious Diseases PGY2 Programs in October 2013, all of our residency programs are accredited by ASHP!

Lastly, we are beginning to see the results of Julie Johnson’s appointment as the Dean of the College of Pharmacy (COP). Our department will be most closely impacted by the Shared Faculty Model that is being implemented, where COP faculty members will partner with clinical specialists to provide clinical services within UF Health Shands in addition to their traditional teaching responsibilities. As we learn more details about this model, it is becoming apparent that we will see closer collaboration than ever before between the College and UF Health Shands Pharmacy. The Pharmacy Department is making strides to carry out Dr. David Guzick’s vision of “Forward Together”.

So you can see that it has very much been a year of change for us. We can’t wait to see what’s next! ■

Laura Wiggins
PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency Director

Are you a UF Health Shands Pharmacy Residency Alum? We would like to hear from you!

In an effort to highlight the UF Health Shands Pharmacy Residency’s long history of producing successful pharmacists and leaders in the profession, we are compiling information about the current location and employment of our alumni. We invite you to contact us to let us know where you are now and what you are doing. This information will be featured in the “past residents” section of the residency website. Each edition of the newsletter will include updates on past residents, so please keep us informed of your personal and professional achievements, so we can proudly share the good news about recent accomplishments, awards and honors, publications, promotions, and the wide variety of careers that our alumni are currently pursuing. E-mail your current information and future updates to shandspharm@shands.ufl.edu with the subject heading “Shands Alumni Update.” Please include your name, Name, PGY1 and/or PGY2 UF Health Shands graduation year(s) and current position and location.
Resident Recap

Resident-Preceptor Events

Florida Residency Conference

ASHP Midyear Family Dinner

Tacky Sweater Christmas Party
Resident-Preceptor Events

Banquet at the Thomas Center!