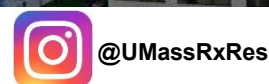


2026-2027



UMass Memorial Health

PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency Program



Hospital and Department Overview

UMass Memorial Medical Center (UMMMC) is an 800+ bed academic medical center and is part of UMass Memorial Health, the largest health care system in Central Massachusetts. We are the clinical partner of UMass Chan Medical School, with access to the latest technology, research, and clinical trials. The Medical Center consists of three campuses in Worcester, MA: University, Memorial, and Hahnemann Campus.

Since starting the pharmacy residency program in 1995, we have made a significant impact on patient care by becoming an integral part of the medical teams through working directly on the hospital floors and guideline/policy development. We strive for excellence in the training of pharmacy residents, providing a positive and rewarding learning experience. Our programs are committed to training that respects the diversity of our residents and our patient population with an emphasis on professional development and wellness.

General Information

The PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency Program is designed to prepare pharmacists for a career in a critical care practice setting. Graduates of our program are prepared for advanced patient care, academic, or other specialized positions, along with board certification. UMMC has 7 adult ICUs, a pediatric ICU, and a neonatal ICU providing a diverse range of critical care learning experiences. We are the only level-1 trauma center for Central Massachusetts and have a state-of-the-art Emergency Medicine and Toxicology Department. Teaching opportunities are available through our strong relationships with regional colleges of pharmacy as well as through the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School and Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing.

Program Fundamentals

- Accreditation
 - ASHP-accredited
- Duration
 - 12 months, starting July 1st
- Positions available
 - 1
- Estimated stipend
 - \$63,140

Program Leadership



Krystina Ahern, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
PGY2 Critical Care Residency Program Director
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Medical ICU
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Elizabeth Kowalik, PharmD, BCCCP
PGY2 Critical Care Residency Program Coordinator
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Medical ICU
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Prerequisites and Licensure

- Candidates must be PharmD graduates of an accredited college of pharmacy
- Completion of an ASHP-accredited PGY1 pharmacy residency
- Be eligible for Massachusetts licensure, with successful completion of NAPLEX and MPJE by September 30th
- Candidates must be US citizens or permanent US residents

Application Information

To apply, the following items must be submitted through PhORCAS to be considered for an interview by January 5th:

- Letter of intent
- Curriculum vitae
- Three references
- Official college transcripts

Program Structure

UMMMC pharmacy residency programs are structured to provide exposure to a variety of practice settings with the goal of developing well-rounded clinical pharmacists. Over the course of one-year, residents will complete required, elective, and longitudinal learning experiences to develop skills in medication management, participating in medical emergencies, leadership, research, precepting, and interprofessional communication and collaboration while simultaneously being exposed to various disease states. Required PGY2 program rotations will focus on the respective specialty area, while electives may focus on other areas of pharmacy practice.

Each resident will complete a two-week orientation at the start of the residency year. The training completed in this introductory course will prepare residents to perform tasks necessary to function in the role of a pharmacist at UMMC. Residents will also be oriented to the pharmacokinetic and emergency response services. PGY2 Critical Care residents will also participate in a core topic review with preceptors for common critical care disease states.

The standard length of time for a learning experience in the UMMC PGY2 Critical Care residency program is 5 weeks. A one-week project block will be built into the schedule around the midpoint of the year. All required, elective, and longitudinal learning experiences are listed below.

Required Learning Experiences	Elective Learning Experiences	Longitudinal Experiences
• Orientation • Medical ICU • Surgical ICU • Neurosurgical ICU • Cardiac ICU • Emergency Medicine • Administration • MICU II or SICU II (resident preference)	• Infectious Disease/ Antimicrobial Stewardship • Pediatric ICU • Neonatal ICU • Trauma • Nutrition Support • Toxicology • Academia • Repeat of required elective	• Clinical staffing ◦ Weekend: decentralized in ED, every 3rd weekend ◦ Weekday: ICU order coverage, 3 hours biweekly • Inpatient Code Blue and Code Stroke response every 4 weeks • Presentations ◦ 3 Pharmacy Conferences ◦ 2 Critical Care Conferences ◦ 1 Northeastern Critical Care Pharmacotherapy Symposium clinical pearl ◦ 1 Continuing Education presentation • Research projects (flipped model) • Formulary projects (medication use evaluation plus drug class review, monograph, clinical guideline or protocol) • Teaching opportunities: ◦ Teaching certificate ◦ Precepting opportunities (APPE students and PGY1 residents) ◦ Didactic lectures to advanced practitioner students • Certification opportunities such as ACLS, PALS, and ENLS

Requirements for Successful Completion of the PGY2 Critical Care Residency Program

- Massachusetts Pharmacy Licensure by September 30th
- Completion of all required learning experiences
- Greater than or equal to 80 % of goals and objectives for the respective program are achieved for residency by the end of the year with no objective listed as “needs improvement”
- The following objectives are required to be achieved for residency (ACHR) by the end of the program:
 - R1.1.1 Interact effectively with healthcare teams to manage critically ill patients’ medication therapy
 - R1.1.3 Collect information on which to base safe and effective medication therapy for critically ill patients
 - R1.1.4 Analyze and assess information on which to base safe and effective medication therapy for critically ill patients
 - R1.1.5 Design, or redesign, safe and effective patient-centered therapeutic regimens and monitoring plans (care plans) for critically ill patients
 - R1.1.6 Ensure implementation of therapeutic regimens and monitoring plans (care plans) for critically ill patients by taking appropriate follow up actions
 - R1.1.8 Demonstrate responsibility to critically ill patients for patient outcomes
- Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support Certifications
- Completion of teaching certificate (if not completed during PGY1 residency)
- Minimum average of 200 interventions/month for clinical rotations, documented in Epic
- 3 Pharmacy Conference presentations
- 1 Pharmacy CE presentation
- 2 Critical Care Case Conference presentations
- 1 Clinical Pearl Presentation at the New England Critical Care Pharmacotherapy Symposium
- Completion of Residency Research Project Number One
 - Revise study protocol based on IRB feedback for final approval if not an exempt study
 - Complete data collection and analysis
 - Complete draft of manuscript worthy of publication
 - Submit abstract to and present at Vizient Pharmacy Network Meeting
- Start Residency Research Project Number Two
 - Submit study proposal and complete initial literature review
 - Submit study protocol to IRB for initial review and approval or submit for exempt from review if meets criteria
 - Identify data to be collected and start developing collection tool
 - Create thorough project handoff
- Complete MUE with formal write up and presentation of results
- Prepare or revise a drug class review, monograph, treatment guideline or protocol
- Complete all required topic discussions, maintain topic discussion checklist and submit by end of year
- Residency binder completed, and all documents uploaded to PharmAcademic
- All PharmAcademic and presentation evaluations have been completed and uploaded into PharmAcademic

Current Preceptors

Learning Experience	Preceptor(s)
Academia	Abir Kanaan, PharmD
Administration	Allison Forni, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP Elizabeth Radigan, PharmD, BCPS
Cardiac ICU	Aiden Fischer, PharmD, BCCP Nicholas Servati, PharmD, BCCP
Emergency Medicine	Michael DiNapoli, PharmD, BCCCP Christa Giannaccini, PharmD, BCEMP Irene Li, PharmD, BCPS Tessa Wicks, PharmD
Infectious Diseases	Jessica Lomanno, PharmD, BCIDP
Medical ICU	Krystina Ahern, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP Elizabeth Kowalik, PharmD, BCCCP Mackenzie Piche, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP (Memorial Campus)
Neonatal ICU	Mehran Nesari Asdigha, PharmD
Neurosurgical ICU	Nadine Luck, PharmD, BCPS
Nutrition Support	Katherine Saunders, MS, RD, LDN, CNSC
Pediatric ICU	Ann Considine, PharmD
Surgical ICU	Ifeoma Asoh, PharmD (Memorial Campus) Brittany Block, PharmD, BCCCP
Trauma	Lisa McNamara MS, RN, ACNP

Current UMMC PGY2 Critical Care Resident



Daminica Ryan, PharmD
Chief Resident
 PGY-1: UMass Memorial
 Medical Center

Previous UMMMC PGY2 Critical Care Residents

Our program has developed residency graduates who have obtained positions as faculty members at colleges of pharmacy, clinical specialists at large academic medical centers, as well as leadership and administrator positions at health care institutions nationwide.

Name	Position Out of Residency
2024-2025	
Deanna Jacobs, PharmD	Clinical Pharmacist- Critical Care <i>University of Iowa Health</i>
Ashley Oh, PharmD	Clinical Pharmacist- Critical Care <i>UMass Memorial Medical Center</i>
2023-2024	
Sapna Basappa, PharmD	Clinical Pharmacist- Emergency Medicine <i>WakeMed Hospital</i>
2022-2023	
Brittany Block, PharmD	Clinical Pharmacist - Critical Care <i>UMass Memorial Medical Center</i>
Tessa Wicks, PharmD	Clinical Pharmacist - Emergency Medicine <i>UMass Memorial Medical Center</i>
2021-2022	
Avilash Bagchi, PharmD, BCCCP	Advanced Clinical Pharmacist – Critical Care <i>Ocala Regional Medical Center</i>
Lindsey Kip, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP	Thoracic Surgery Pharmacist <i>University of Kentucky Healthcare</i>
2020-2021	
Priya Vallabh, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP	Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Surgical ICU <i>UMass Memorial Medical Center</i>
Mariela Cardona Gonzalez, PharmD, BCCCP	Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Surgical and Burn Critical Care <i>JH Bayview Medical Center</i>
2019-2020	
Mackenzie Piche, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP	Clinical Pharmacist - Medical ICU <i>UMass Memorial Medical Center</i>
2018-2019	
Emily Collis, PharmD, BCPS	Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Formulary Management <i>UMass Memorial Medical Center</i>
Rachel Fett, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP	Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - ED/Medical ICU <i>Christiana Care Health System</i>
...and many more!	

Get to Know Us Further!



- Virtual open houses: Nov 21st 2:00-3:00 PM EST and Dec 2nd 3:00-4:00 PM EST
- Register for open house here: [2025 UMMMC PGY2 Virtual Open House Registration Link](#)



Say Hello to Worcester!

Welcome to the state's most vibrant and livable mid-sized city! Worcester is the second largest and fastest-growing major city in New England and features a large variety of beautiful scenery, historical sites, and fun indoor and outdoor activities for everyone!

Beyond our mentor program and benefits package, including conference reimbursement and the Employee Assistance Program, we aim to build a well-rounded residency program focusing on developing each resident professionally and personally.



Resident Bonding Events

- Making the most of what Worcester and Central MA has to offer!
- Several 'Thank-A-Resident' Days each year, dedicated to resident bonding and wellness with clinical services covered by preceptors

Mentor-Mentee Meet & Greet Socials!

Local sports teams, hiking, renowned breweries and so much more!

