



# VA HVHCS Past PGY1 Pharmacy Residents

## Where Are They Now?

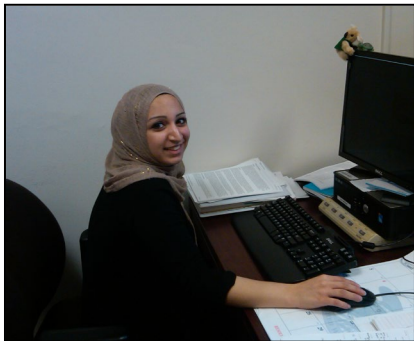


### **2008-2009: Elma Waldo (formerly Omeragic), PharmD, CACP**

Dr. Omeragic obtained her PharmD degree from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2008. After completing her PGY1 residency at VA HVHCS in 2009, she initially accepted a pharmacist position at Albany Memorial Hospital. Since 2013 she has worked for St. Peter's Health Partners in various roles. In 2020 she became the Inpatient Pharmacy Supervisor at Samaritan Hospital-Albany Memorial Campus.

### **2009-2010: Kimberly Allison, PharmD, BCACP**

Dr. Allison earned her PharmD degree from the University at Buffalo in 2009. Shortly after completing her PGY1 residency at VA HVHCS in 2010, she joined our pharmacy staff as a clinical pharmacy specialist. Dr. Allison worked in primary care and anticoagulation for 10 years before transitioning to the infectious disease clinic in 2019. In 2019 she also became the PGY1 pharmacy residency program director for VA HVHCS. Kimberly became board certified in ambulatory care pharmacy in 2011. She has been an adjunct professor for the physician assistant program at Pace University since 2018.



### **2010-2011: Samrah Naseem, PharmD**

Dr. Naseem received her PharmD degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2010. After completing her PGY1 residency at VA HVHCS in 2011, Sam pursued a PGY2 specialty residency in geriatrics at the Boston VAMC. Currently, she works at Atrius Health as a primary care, geriatric, and psychiatric clinical pharmacist. Her role includes collaborative drug therapy management, drug information consults, formulary management, and academic detailing. As an active member of the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, she completes drug monographs, creates therapeutic policies and guidelines, and develops organizational cost-savings prescribing initiatives. She also serves as a primary preceptor for the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) PGY1 residency program and as an instructor for an advanced Neurology/Psychiatry Pharmacotherapy elective course at MCPHS.

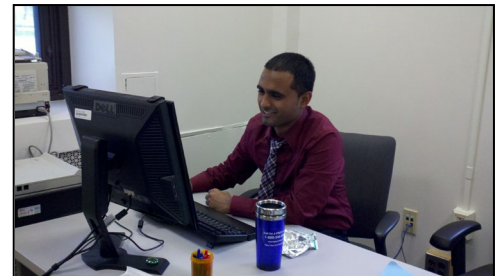


### **2011-2012: Gerard Gawrys, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP and Manthan Chokshi, PharmD**

Dr. Gawrys obtained his PharmD degree from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 2011 and travelled to New York State for PGY1 residency training. After successful completion of his PGY1 residency program at VA HVHCS in 2012, Gerard furthered his training at the Milwaukee VAMC where he completed a PGY2 specialty residency in infectious disease. Dr. Gawrys then decided to settle south in San Antonio, TX, where he accepted an antimicrobial

surveillance clinical pharmacist position at Methodist Healthcare System. Dr. Gawrys became a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist in 2012 and a board certified infectious disease pharmacist in 2018. He was the recipient of the 2016 Gita Wasan Patel Pharmacy Excellence Award. Gerard also serves as a PGY1 pharmacy residency program director at Methodist Healthcare System and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the College of Pharmacy at the University of Texas.

Dr. Chokshi received his PharmD degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 2011. Shortly after completing his PGY1 residency at VA HVHCS in 2012, he joined our pharmacy staff as a clinical pharmacy specialist, where he specialized in diabetes and anticoagulation management. Because he was truly passionate about pharmacy informatics, Manny ultimately transitioned into the pharmacy Automated Data Processing Application Coordinator (ADPAC) at VA HVHCS. In 2016, Manny accepted a pharmacy ADPAC position in his home state of New Jersey at the VA New Jersey Healthcare System East Orange Campus.



### **2012-2013: Cindy Lau, PharmD and Debbie Nolan (formerly Hsu), PharmD**



Dr. Lau graduated from St. John's University in 2012, receiving her PharmD degree. After completing her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2013, Cindy initially accepted a position at the VA New Jersey Healthcare System East Orange Campus, where she served as a clinical pharmacist at the Center for Health and Wellness. In 2015, Cindy accepted a global drug safety specialist position with Leo Pharma in Parsippany, NJ and transferred to their headquarters in Denmark in 2017. She also worked as a safety surveillance advisor at Novo Nordisk headquarters in Denmark, where she is responsible for Victoza® and Xultophy®. In 2019 Cindy and her family returned to the U.S. She currently works for Otsuka Pharmaceutical Companies as a medical safety scientist.

Dr. Hsu received her PharmD degree from Northeastern University. She successfully completed her PGY1 residency training in 2013, as well as a PGY2 ambulatory care pharmacy residency program at VA HVHCS in 2014. She is now employed as a clinical pharmacy specialist within the VA Central Western Massachusetts Health Care System in Leeds, MA where her clinical responsibilities include formulary, anticoagulation, diabetes and anemia management.

### **2013-2014: Cristina Madden (formerly Fantino), PharmD, BCPP and Clement Chen, PharmD, BCPS**

Dr. Madden graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2013, receiving her PharmD degree. After completing her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2014, Cristina then completed a PGY2 psychiatry pharmacy residency at the VA Connecticut Health Care System. She is now working as a clinical pharmacy specialist in inpatient psychiatry at the VA Connecticut Health Care System. She is also board certified in psychiatric pharmacy.



Dr. Chen graduated from Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University in 2013, receiving his PharmD degree. He worked as an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist specialist with a focus in heart failure/cardiology at University Hospital in Newark, NJ from 2016-2019. He is currently working as the academic detailer/clinical pharmacist specialist for the Northern NJ Medication-Assisted Treatment Center of Excellence at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark, NJ, whose mission is to increase statewide capacity to provide medication-assisted treatment for patients with substance use disorders. Dr. Chen also works as a part-time transitions of care pharmacist at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, NJ. He became a Board Certified Pharmacy Specialist in 2016.

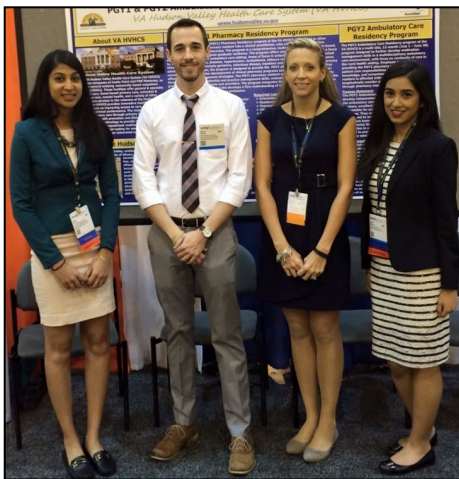
### **2014-2015: Ashley Farr, PharmD and Brian Smith, PharmD**

Dr. Farr graduated from Saint John Fisher College Wegmans School of Pharmacy, in Rochester, NY in 2014, receiving her PharmD degree. After completing her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2015, Ashley then completed a PGY2 ambulatory care pharmacy residency at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, FL. She is currently employed as clinical pharmacist at the same facility and serves as the Pain Program Manager.



Dr. Smith also received his PharmD degree from Saint John Fisher College Wegmans School of Pharmacy, in Rochester, NY. He successfully completed his PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2015, as well as his PGY2 ambulatory care pharmacy residency training at VA HVHCS in 2016. He currently works at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, NY with a focus on clinical duties in the ICU and CCU. He also serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students.

### **2015-2016: Uswa Ahmad, PharmD, BCACP and Gina Shah, PharmD**

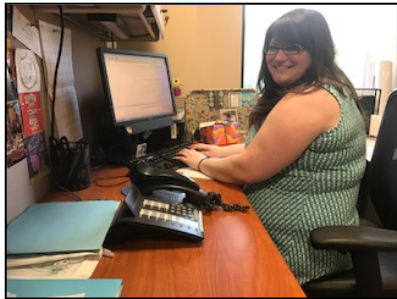
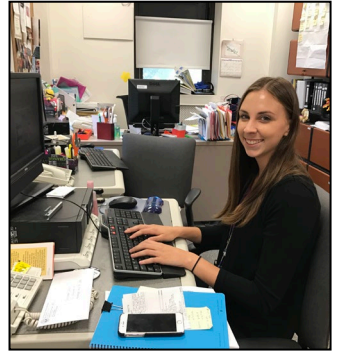


Dr. Ahmad graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, MA in 2015, receiving her PharmD degree. She completed her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2015 and is currently working as a Clinical Pharmacist at the Cambridge Health Alliance in Cambridge, MA. As a clinical pharmacist she is responsible for Anticoagulation, Diabetes and Hypertension management services. In 2019 she became a board certified ambulatory care pharmacist.

Dr. Shah received her PharmD degree from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT in 2015. She successfully completed her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2015. Gina is currently working as an Ambulatory Care clinical pharmacist at the VA San Diego Healthcare System in San Diego, CA. She also serves as a member of the Residency Executive Committee there.

**2016-2017: Rachel Quinn, PharmD, BCACP and Catherine Haupt (formerly Knapp), PharmD, BCACP**

Dr. Quinn graduated from Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy in Wilkes Barre, PA receiving her PharmD degree in 2016. She completed her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2016 and successfully completed her PGY2 ambulatory care residency at the Brooklyn Hospital Center in Brooklyn, NY in 2018. She is currently employed as a transitions of care clinical pharmacist at Brooklyn Hospital Center. Dr. Quinn has been a board certified ambulatory care pharmacist since 2018.



Dr. Haupt also graduated in 2016 receiving her PharmD degree from Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy in Wilkes Barre, PA. She successfully completed her PGY1 residency training at VA HVHCS in 2017. She worked at Lancaster General Health from 2017-2018. In 2018 she took a position as an ambulatory care pharmacist at Geisinger Health. She also works as a preceptor for pharmacy students and residents. Dr. Haupt has been a board certified ambulatory care pharmacist since 2019.

**2017-2018: Jesus Melendez, PharmD and Cassandra Warsaw, PharmD**

Dr. Melendez graduated from Rutgers University receiving his PharmD degree in 2017. He successfully completed his PGY1 pharmacy residency training at VA HVHCS in 2018 and is currently employed as a clinical pharmacist in Ocean Health Initiatives in Ocean County, NJ.

Dr. Warsaw also graduated in 2017 receiving her PharmD degree from the University at Buffalo. She completed her PGY1 pharmacy residency training at VA HVHCS in 2018. Cassandra is a clinical pharmacy specialist in anticoagulation and academic detailing at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC.



**2018-2019: Tessa Kelly, PharmD and Elisa Torres, PharmD**



Dr. Kelly graduated from the Wegmans School of Pharmacy at St. John Fisher College in 2018. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Residency training at VA HVHCS in 2019 and PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at the Lebanon VA Medical Center in 2020. She is currently working as a clinical pharmacy specialist with the Home Based Primary Care team at the Bath VA Medical Center in New York state.

Dr. Torres graduated in 2017 receiving her PharmD degree from the University at Buffalo. She completed her PGY1 pharmacy residency training at VA HVHCS in 2019 and as well as her PGY2 ambulatory care pharmacy residency training in 2020. She currently works as a medication therapy management consultant at CHC Health.

**2019-2020: Antonino Laquidara, PharmD and Pamela Tiavises, PharmD**

Dr. Laquidara graduated from Albany College of Pharmacy in 2019. He completed his PGY1 pharmacy residency training at VA HVHCS in 2020. He is currently pursuing a PGY2 residency program at Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut.

Dr. Tiavises graduated in 2019 from University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, PA. She completed her PGY1 pharmacy residency at VA HVHCS in 2020. She is currently pursuing a PGY2 residency for psychiatric pharmacy at the VA in Martinsburg, WV.

