New Residency Programs Developed in Oncology and Critical Care Medicine

In the Spotlight

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The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy has developed two new Postgraduate-Year-2 (PGY-2) residency programs in oncology and in critical care medicine. Residents in both of these programs have already completed a one-year (PGY-1) residency and will continue their education with two more years of specialized clinical training.

The oncology residency gives the resident advanced training in hematology/oncology and in supportive care pharmacotherapy, as well as numerous opportunities for teaching and scholarship.

“Graduates of this program will be adequately prepared to enter oncology pharmacy practice as a clinical specialist and/or academician,” said David DeRemer, residency supervisor and clinical assistant professor at the College's Clinical Pharmacy Program in Augusta.

Core rotations provide eight weeks of experience in inpatient bone marrow transplant, inpatient hematology/oncology, and research, plus four weeks in gynecologic oncology, pediatric oncology and outpatient bone marrow transplant. Elective rotations are available in infectious disease consulting, investigational drugs and solid malignancy outpatient clinics.

Katerina Katsanevas, who received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Auburn University, is the first resident in the new program; she completed her PGY-1 residency with the College of Pharmacy at Georgia Health Sciences Medical Center in Augusta. Her oncology research project, which is undertaken in collaboration with Somanath Shenoy, assistant professor in the College's Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy, is titled “Is GSK-3 the gridlock in the Akt-targeted prostate cancer therapy?” and is supported by a UGA translational research initiative grant. Clinical Assistant Professor Amber Bradley helps coordinate Katsanevas' clinical training.

The critical care medicine residency is headed by Hal Richards, clinical pharmacy specialist, and is located at St. Joseph's/Candler in Savannah.

The purpose of this new residency is to develop an advanced practitioner able to succeed in medication management, nutrition support, and the disease state management of patient populations in adult critical care and emergency medicine. The resident is enrolled in UGA's graduate certificate program and is prepared for teaching, both didactic and experiential.

The resident is be expected to participate in the total care of patients assigned, with responsibilities to include nutrition and sedation support and monitoring, deep venous thrombosis and GI prophylaxis, and electrolyte management. Other duties range from prioritizing pharmaceutical care and implementing plans for safe medication use to precepting pharmacy students and educating other healthcare professional on current antibiotic and surgical prophylaxis guidelines.

The two new residencies bring the total number of College of Pharmacy PGY-1 and PGY-2 residency programs to seven, with 13 total residents.