

# RWJBarnabas HEALTH

## Residency Annual Report 2025–2026

### Pharmacy Residency Programs:

1. Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center
2. Clara Maass Medical Center
3. Community Medical Center
4. Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center
5. Jersey City Medical Center
6. Monmouth Medical Center
7. Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
8. RWJ University Hospital New Brunswick
9. RWJ University Hospital Somerset
10. Corporate Pharmacy





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# Pharmacy Residency Program Information

RWJBarnabas Health offers American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)-accredited PGY-1 and PGY-2 pharmacy residency programs. Through these programs, residents are given the opportunity to work in interdisciplinary care teams to enhance their skills in evidence-based, patient-centered medication management, and to perform pharmacy practice research that is presented at ASHP's Midyear Meeting and at the Eastern States Conference for pharmacy residents and preceptors.

The purpose of a pharmacy residency is to train highly motivated, team-oriented pharmacy residents on advanced patient care skills, teaching techniques, and practice-based research methods, preparing them to be leaders of change in the medical and academic communities. The residency provides residents the opportunity to participate in multidisciplinary practice and has been designed to meet all standards and requirements of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

The RWJBarnabas Health residency programs began with one resident in 1993 and has expanded to 28 residents in 2026.

Learning experiences offered include: Administration, Ambulatory Care, Cardiology, Community Outreach, Critical Care, Drug Information, Emergency Medicine, General Hospital Pharmacy, Geriatrics, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Oncology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Specialty Pharmacy, Transplant, and Transitions of Care

As of 2026, RWJBarnabas Health offers the following number of PGY-1 pharmacy residency positions per year :

- Clara Maass Medical Center (2)
- Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center (4)
- Community Medical Center (2)
- RWJ New Brunswick (2)
- Jersey City Medical Center (2)
- RWJ Somerset (2)
- Monmouth Medical Center (2)
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (2)

As of 2026, each RWJBarnabas Health Facility offers the following number of PGY-2 pharmacy residency positions per year:

- Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center: Psychiatry (1)
- Community Medical Center: Critical Care (1)
- Corporate Pharmacy: Ambulatory Care (1)
- Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center: Geriatrics (1) Critical Care (1)

Additionally, RWJBarnabas has partnered with the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University to serve as practice sites for the following PGY-2 programs:

- RWJ New Brunswick: Emergency Medicine (2)
- RWJ New Brunswick: Medication Use Safety and Policy (2)
- Monmouth Medical Center: Neuropsychiatry (1)



## Robert Pellechio, RPh, MPA

Senior Vice President and  
Chief Pharmacy Officer



“Completing a pharmacy residency post-graduation is a great way to begin a career in clinical pharmacy. As one of the most trusted professionals, pharmacists must be driven by core values of responsibility, high ethics, and unselfishness. There is meaning behind every decision. You were selected by our programs due to your ability to demonstrate the passion to learn, ability to work on a team effectively, and a commitment to patient care.

Throughout this year you have been able to build your skills in direct patient care and practice management. You have been able to grow a professional network through your connections with co-residents, colleagues and leadership. By participating in a variety of practice areas, you have gained a better perspective on which area of care best fits your interests. By completing your residency, you have helped to define your future career goals.

As you embark on the next chapter, remember to have the courage to follow your heart and intuition, they somehow already know what you truly want to become! “

**- Robert Pellechio**

**Jennifer Sternbach,  
PharmD, BCPS, BCACP**

Assistant Vice President of Clinical Pharmacy  
Services, Corporate Pharmacy



From Eleanor Roosevelt:

“Do one thing everyday that scares you. Those small things that make us uncomfortable help us build courage to do the work we do.”

On your first day of the leadership forum, I challenged you to be uncomfortable. When we challenge ourselves to be uncomfortable, we grow. You have finished an amazing year of hard work and learning. It is only the beginning. Continue to practice being uncomfortable, continue to challenge yourself to grow each day, continue to have the courage to raise the bar for our patients and our profession.

Congratulations and always remember what we have taught you. It has been an honor to be a part of your residency time at RWJBH.

**-Jennifer Sternbach**

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**Timothy Jacisin, PharmD, BCPS**

Clinical Coordinator, RWJUH Somerset



Henry David Thoreau once said, “Most lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.” It is often said that pharmacists are “lifelong learners”, and as you progress in your personal and professional growth, lean in the direction of inspiration, compassion, and resilience. As you finish this year and look forward to your next phase, remember to be and, above all, kind to yourself. These characteristics, among others, bring life and warmth to our services and evoke excellence in patient care. Your RWJBH community has been a foundation of your professional growth, and it has been my honor to be a participant.

**-Timothy Jacisin**

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# Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center

**RWJBarnabas**  
**HEALTH**

**Kim Walsh, RPh, MBA**

Director of Pharmacy Services



**Henry Leach, PharmD,  
BCPP**

PGY-2 Psychiatric Residency  
Program Director  
Clinical Coordinator



RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center is a standalone psychiatric facility with 100 inpatient beds and outpatient services located in Toms River, NJ. The hospital is affiliated with several colleges of pharmacy including but not limited to the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Saint Joseph College of Pharmacy, and Farleigh Dickinson College of Pharmacy. The facility also offers an ASHP accredited PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency which offers a variety of learning experiences in both voluntary and involuntary adult psychiatric medicine, dual diagnosis treatment, adolescent and pediatric psychiatry, as well as geriatric psychiatry. Pharmacy residents are also provided additional learning experiences in administration, research, and board certification preparation. The hospital is on the cutting edge of psychiatric medicine and utilizes a team based and trauma-informed care approach to the management of patients with any mental health disorder. Also, PGY-2 residents at our facility gain experience with long acting injectable antipsychotics and medications for treatment resistant depression.

**What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?**

"Stay true to your heart and always do the right thing!"

**-Kim Walsh**

*"Try to be aggressively positive even when days are challenging. It will create a tailwind for others."*

**-Henry Leach**

**Louisa Wiafe, PharmD**

PGY-2 Psychiatric  
Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Williamstown, NJ

**Pharmacy School:** Thomas Jefferson University

**Favorite Hobbies:** Listening to podcasts, reading, and gaming

**PGY-1 Program:** Jefferson Health New Jersey

**Research Project:** Comparative effects of risperidone extended release subcutaneous injection versus paliperidone palmitate intramuscular injection on patient outcomes post discharge

**Future Directions:** Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Long Island University and Psychiatric Clinical Pharmacist at Bellevue Hospital



# Clara Maass Medical Center



## Mona Philips, RPh, MAS

Director of Pharmacy Services



## Mitesh Patel, PharmD, BCCCP

Clinical Coordinator

PGY-1 Residency Program Director



## Nicole Daniel, PharmD, BCPP

Neuropsychiatric Pharmacy Specialist

PGY-1 Residency Program Coordinator



Founded in 1869, Clara Maass Medical Center, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, proudly celebrates 150 years of service to the northern New Jersey community. Located in Belleville, NJ, the 472-bed medical center offers a comprehensive range of care, meeting the diverse needs of its residents.

Since 2007, Clara Maass Medical Center has maintained an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 pharmacy residency program, fostering the development of competent and compassionate health-system pharmacists. Affiliated with esteemed institutions such as Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University, St. Joseph College of Pharmacy, and Fairleigh Dickinson College of Pharmacy, the program provides diverse and robust learning experiences in acute care settings. Residents gain invaluable expertise across specialties, including Hospital Pharmacy, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Administration, Drug Information, Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Behavioral Health, and Cardiology.

Through these varied experiences, the residency program equips future pharmacists to thrive in an ever-changing health care landscape.

### What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?

"Treat every patient the same as you would want your family member to be treated and treat everyone you meet with dignity and respect.

**-Mona Philips**

"The keys to success lies in approaching every challenge with a positive attitude, an unwavering belief in your abilities, and willingness to adapt, because even on the toughest days, you'll always find a way to make a positive impact"

**-Mitesh Patel**

# Clara Maass Medical Center



## Yulina Li, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Marlboro, NJ

**Pharmacy School:** Rutgers University — Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Favorite Hobbies:** learning new languages, listening to podcast

**Research Project:** Post-Stroke Depression Identification through Care Team Screening

**Future Directions:** PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency at the University of Rochester

## Umair Kadri, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



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**Hometown:** Iselin, NJ

**Pharmacy School:** Rutgers University — Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Favorite Hobbies:** skydiving, traveling

**Research Project:** Transitions of Care Evaluation of Targeted Medication Appropriateness Among ICU to Unit Transfer Patients (TRACE-ICU)

**Future Directions:** TBD

# Community Medical Center

**RWJBarnabas**  
**HEALTH**

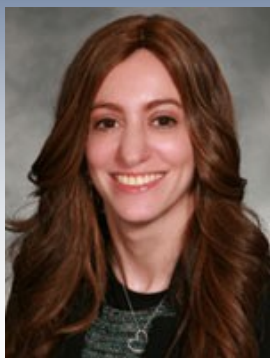
## **Lynne Goldstein, RPh**

Director of Pharmacy Services



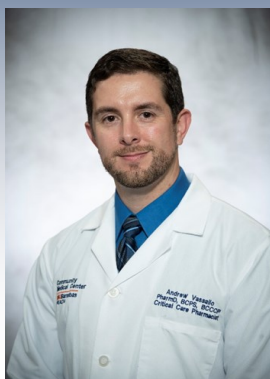
## **Etty Vider, BS, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES**

Clinical Coordinator  
PGY-1 Residency Program Director



## **Andrew Vassallo, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP**

PGY-2 Critical Care Residency  
Program Director



Since 1961, Community Medical Center (CMC) has provided care to the residents of Ocean County, and has grown into the largest and most active health care facility in the county. CMC is a 617 bed fully accredited medical center and offers comprehensive services at the J. Phillip Citta Regional Cancer Center, The Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, neurology and neurosurgery services, cardiac care and catheterization on and off-site, surgical services, outpatient dialysis, obstetric, pediatric and outpatient infusion services. Advanced care is provided at the Center for Sleep Disorders, the Center for Diabetes Education and the Women's Imaging Center. CMC also supports a 25 bed on-site, acute rehabilitation center, a 100 bed Emergency Department and many community outreach programs.



The pharmacy department provides services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through a hybrid-decentralized model, a surgical Pharmacy satellite and Outpatient Infusion Pharmacy complex. The Pharmacy Department leads investigational studies and provides education for the nursing and medical staff. Community Medical Center has 5 Clinical Specialists who participate in daily patient interdisciplinary rounds in their respective areas, provide evidence based medication recommendations, provide education to the interdisciplinary care team. Specialists include 2 in Critical Care, 1 in Infectious Disease and 2 in Emergency Medicine. The Clinical Specialists also precept students from Rutgers and FDU SOP. CMC is proud to have achieved an eight-year ASHP accredited residency program for two PGY-1 Pharmacy Residents as well as an eight-year ASHP accredited PGY-2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency program. Continuous learning and improvement for the entire staff is a core principle of the department. Team members provide presentations at the local, state, national and international levels and routinely publish

# Community Medical Center

**RWJBarnabas**  
**HEALTH**

## **Emilia Wilk, BCPS, BCEMP**

PGY-1/PGY-2 Pharmacy Residency  
Program Coordinator



Remember that no matter where you go in your career and how long you have been practicing you will always be learning. Push yourself, keep an open mind, and take opportunities for growth as you start your career and you will find yourself constantly growing both as a person and a practitioner.

***-Andrew Vassallo***



## Juhee Jeong, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Highland Park, NJ

**Pharmacy School:** Rutgers University — Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Favorite Hobbies:** Gaming, drawing, going to New York City

**Research Project:** Evaluation of Azithromycin and Doxycycline in Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia

**Future Directions:** Currently looking for employment

## Kelsey Jacobson, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



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**Hometown:** Manahawkin, NJ

**Pharmacy School:** Fairleigh Dickinson University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

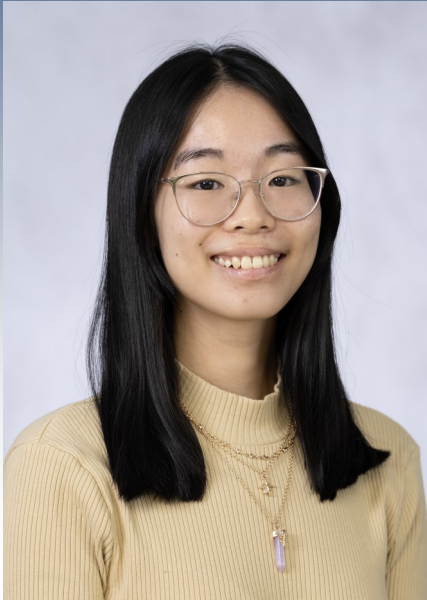
**Favorite Hobbies:** going to the gym, the beach, and hanging out with friends

**Research Project:** Impact of a Standardized Pharmacist Verification Checklist on Appropriateness of Total Parenteral Nutrition Orders

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency at RWJBH-Community Medical Center

## Christina Cheng, PharmD

PGY-2 Critical Care Pharmacy  
Resident



**Hometown:** Queens, NY

**Pharmacy School:** University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

**PGY-1 Program:** Saint Peter's University Hospital

**Favorite Hobbies:** Reading and going to the beach

**Research Project:** Standardizing Xylazine Withdrawal Management: A Pre and Post Order Set Evaluation

**Future Directions:** Critical Care Specialist at Sutter Health Roseville, CA

**Alyssa Gallipani, PharmD,  
BCACP**

PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency  
Program Director



**Jennifer Sternbach, PharmD,  
BCPS, BCACP**

Assistant Vice President of Clinical  
Pharmacy Services, Corporate Pharmacy  
Residency Program Coordinator



RWJBH Primary Care is a multi-specialty group practice that provides care across NJ's largest integrated health system. We are composed of highly experienced primary and specialty care providers, including Doctor of Medicine, Advanced Practicing Nurses, and Physician Assistants. Residents will rotate between various practice locations throughout the RWJBH enterprise, including Florham Park, Livingston, West Orange, Shrewsbury, Eatontown, Warren, East Brunswick, Bridgewater, Hamilton, and Jersey City. Our program is affiliated with Rutgers University. Learning experiences include 6 different primary care rotations with a focus in diabetes, obesity, family medicine, Asian health, endocrinology, and geriatrics, as well as transitions of care, corporate pharmacy, infectious diseases, population health, research, teaching and education, management and leadership. The PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program is comprised of 8 clinical specialists, all of which carry specialty certification in their areas of expertise including BCPS, BCACP, and BCGP.

**What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?**

"As you move forward, don't forget the people who were part of your residency journey. Your preceptors, technicians, medical professionals, and especially your co-residents. They were the ones by your side who watched you grow and encouraged you. They are proud of who you have become. Think of them, thank them, and stay in touch. You are always a part of the RWJBH family!"

**- Alyssa Gallipani**

## Christin Kim, PharmD

PGY-2 Ambulatory Care  
Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** New Hope, PA

**Pharmacy School:** Thomas Jefferson University —  
Jefferson College of Pharmacy

**PGY-1 Program:** Inspira Medical Center — Vineland

**Favorite Hobbies:** Solo traveling, weightlifting and  
taking Solidcore classes, reading

**Research Project:** From Reconciliation to Resolution:  
Improving Medication Safety Post-Discharge

**Future Directions:** Practice as an ambulatory care  
pharmacist in primary care or endocrinology



# Jersey City Medical Center



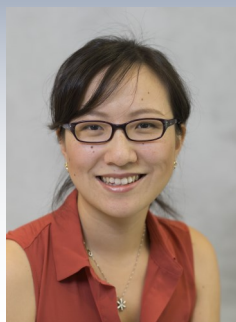
**Maria DeVivo, PharmD,  
MPA, BCPS, BCACP**

Director of Pharmacy Services



**Sandy Moreau,  
PharmD, BCPS**

Clinical Coordinator,  
PGY-1 Residency Program Director



**Matthew Lamb,  
PharmD, BCCCP, BCEMP**

Emergency Medicine Pharmacist  
PGY-1 Residency Program Coordinator



Jersey City Medical Center (JCMC) is a 314-bed hospital located in Jersey City, NJ. Notable hospital services include Region-al Level II Trauma Center, Comprehensive Cardiac Center, State-designated Stroke Center, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and Regional Orthopedic Institute. The Pharmacy Department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The department is structured in a centralized operation model PLUS de-centralized unit-based and specialty-based clinical pharmacist services. There are 6 hospital-based clinical specialists and 2 Rutgers faculty members servicing areas including Hospitalists Group, 2 Medical/Surgical Floors, Critical Care Unit, Emergency Department, Infectious Diseases/Antimicrobial Stewardship, Psychiatry, and HIV/Ambulatory Care Clinic. All of these service areas serve as learning experiences for residents, with additional learning experience in outpatient Hematology/Oncology Ambulatory Clinic added in 2023. In addition to clinical specialists who precept in the residency program, the Clinical Coordinator (also the Residency Program Director), the Director of Pharmacy, and Informatics Pharmacist, all serve as preceptors for the Residency Program as well. In addition to longitudinal learning experiences and various projects or deliverables, Pharmacy Residents serve vital roles in maintaining our Vancomycin Dosing and Monitoring Consult to Pharmacy service, patient counseling services, LeapFrog medication reconciliation audits, and antimicrobial stewardship initiatives.

## **What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?**

"Keep your clinical skills current and become board certified."

**- Maria DeVivo**

"Everything seems worse at 3AM. Don't panic, don't think about it, go back to it in the morning."

**- Sandy Moreau**

"Take a deep breath. Take time off if possible. Take care of yourself. Come back rejuvenated ready to take care of the community or continue your training with all the incredible knowledge and skills you have gained this past year. Throughout your career always ask why and continue to learn. is best for the patient."

**- Matthew Lamb**

# Jersey City Medical Center



## Victoria Corriere, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Staten Island, NY

**Pharmacy School:** Rutgers University — Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Favorite Hobbies:** Reading, spending time with my family, trying new coffee shops

**Research Project:** From Doses to Dozes: Pharmacist Interventions to Minimize Sleep-Disrupting Medications

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Pediatric Pharmacy Residency at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital/ SUNY Upstate

## Sara Farag, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Bayonne, NJ

**Pharmacy School:** Long Island University — The Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

**Favorite Hobbies:** Spending time with family and friends, reading, and trying new adventures

**Research Project:** Glucocorticoid-Matched Insulin Dosing Guide to Optimize Glycemic Control In Hospitalized Adults with Diabetes Receiving Glucocorticoids

**Future Directions:** Currently applying and looking for opportunities to continue developing clinical pharmacy skills



# Monmouth Medical Center



**Scott Mathis, PharmD,**  
Director of Pharmacy



At MMC, we have widely been recognized for our outstanding quality and dedication to patient safety and experience. MMC is recognized as a top maternity hospital. The ANCC has conferred Magnet® recognition for MMC as a reflection of its



nursing professionalism, teamwork and superiority in patient care. MMC has received an “A” Hospital Safety Score by The Leapfrog Group in the past and we are proud to be the region’s only hospital named a 2020 Guardian of Excellence Award® winner by Press Ganey.

As a regional teaching campus for Rutgers RWJMS, we offer the most experienced surgeons in robotics and other advanced minimally invasive procedures as well as bariatric and joint and spine surgery. Our Unterberg Children’s Hospital is licensed as an official children’s hospital for Monmouth and Ocean counties. We offer access to the region’s top cardiologists and the award-winning, nationally recognized RWJBarnabas heart centers. In partnership with Rutgers Cancer Institute, we bring a world class team of researchers and specialists to fight alongside patient, providing close-to-home access to the latest treatment and clinical trials.

MMC has clinical pharmacy specialists in the areas of psychiatry, infectious disease, emergency medicine, critical care and internal medicine alongside our transitions of care decentralized staff. MMC has been in partnership with ESMOP to provide onsite experiences for pharmacy students for decades.

## **What advice do you have for this year’s residents as they embark on their careers?**

“What a year! I am incredibly proud of all of your dedication and accomplishments! There is no limit to your continued success, so go out there and continue to shine. Remember to work hard each day and balance it out with playing hard too!”

**- Germin Fahim**

“As Walt Disney stated ‘All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them’”

**- Megan Maroney**

**Germin Fahim, PharmD,**  
**BCPS**

PGY-1 Residency Program Director



**Megan Maroney, PharmD,**  
**BCPP, FAAPP**

PGY-2 Psychiatric Residency  
Program Director



# Monmouth Medical Center



## Maram Ayadi, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Marlboro, NJ

**Pharmacy School:** Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University

**Favorite Hobbies:** Spending time with friends and family, watching sports, and crocheting

**Research Project:** Implementation and Evaluation of Inpatient Nirsevimab Administration on Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Admission Rates and Outcomes

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Pediatric Pharmacy Residency at Cohen Children's Medical Center

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## Jonathan Kurian, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Bergenfield, New Jersey

**Pharmacy School:** Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University

**Favorite Hobbies:** Basketball, working out, baking

**Research Project:** Evaluation of Early Pharmacist Intervention for Medication Management of New-Start Antidepressants

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency at Rutgers University, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

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## Gianna Franco, PharmD

PGY-2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Staten Island, NY

**Pharmacy School:** Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

**PGY-1 Program:** RWJBH Monmouth Medical Center

**Favorite Hobbies:** Going to concerts, reading, yoga

**Research Project:** Optimizing Medication Management to Prevent Restraint Episodes in Adult Inpatient Psychiatry: A Quality Improvement Study

**Future Directions:** Clinical Assistant Professor at Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and Clinical Psychiatric Pharmacist at RWJ University Hospital Somerset

# Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



## Kwakye Acheampong, PharmD, BCPS

Director of Pharmacy Services



## Kayla Torppey, PharmD, BCPS

Assistant Director of Clinical Services  
PGY-1 Residency Program Director



## Dana Serao, PharmD, BCPS, BCEMP

Clinical Pharmacist, Emergency Medicine  
Residency Program Coordinator



Established in 1901, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is a 665-bed teaching hospital that provides comprehensive health care for the region. It is home to one of the nation's ten largest heart transplant centers, RWJBarnabas Health's Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant Program, New Jersey's only Advanced Lung Disease and Transplant Program, the Children's Hospital of New Jersey, and a Valve Center that performs more cardiac valve procedures than any other center in the state. The PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency program at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is an ASHP-accredited program with two pharmacy residents per year. Residents have the opportunity to experience a variety of core and elective rotations including Critical Care, Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Intensive Care, Emergency Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Pharmacy Administration, and Heart/Lung Solid Organ Transplantation.

**What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers:**

"Keep the mindset of being a lifelong learner and embrace challenges and opportunities to step outside of your comfort zone for growth. Your residency graduation is an important milestone, but there are endless possibilities ahead!"

**- Kayla Torppey**

"Never be afraid to take on new task/challenges. The world is ready to embrace strong, daring leaders. Do not settle for mediocrity"

**- Kwakye Acheampong**

"Work with integrity, humility, and excellence each day, regardless of your position. Stay curious, and try to learn something new every day."

**- Dana Serao**



**Pooja Patel, PharmD**

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Berlin, CT

**Pharmacy School:** University of Saint Joseph School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies

**Favorite Hobbies:** Cooking, painting pottery, trying new restaurants

**Research Project:** Facilitating Automatic Substitution Therapy for Venous Thromboembolism Treatment in the Emergency Department (FAST-VTE)

**Future Directions:** Staying on as a pharmacist at NBI!



# Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick



## James Barna, PharmD

Director of Pharmacy Services



Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) in New Brunswick, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, is an academic medical center whose Centers of Excellence include cardiovascular care from minimally invasive heart surgery to transplantation, cancer care, stroke care, neuroscience, spine surgery, and women's and children's care including The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital (BMSCH). Nationally ranked as a U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospital, BMSCH serves as the focal point of New Brunswick's only academic pediatric health campus. From pediatric surgery, urology and cardiology to oncology, hematology and pulmonology, BMSCH's specialists and intensivists provide advanced care for children of all ages—from fragile newborns to adolescents.



As the flagship Cancer Hospital of the Rutgers Cancer Institute, the only NCI-designated Cancer Center in the state and the future home of the Jack and Sheryl Morris Cancer Center, RWJUH is an innovative leader in advancing cancer care and research. Through its deep partnership with Rutgers University, RWJUH delivers the highest levels of care in the state and region.

The Pharmacy Department provides decentralized services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with specialized pharmaceutical services being provided throughout the hospital. At RWJUH, pharmacists serve as active participants in the interdisciplinary healthcare team. The role of pharmacy in patient care is widely accepted and valued.

Our preceptors are comprised of full-time hospital-based pharmacists as well as clinical pharmacy specialists affiliated with Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.

### PGY-1 Required Rotations Include:

Orientation  
Critical Care (MICU focus)  
Emergency Medicine  
Infectious Diseases  
Internal Medicine  
Pediatrics or Solid Organ Transplant  
Longitudinal: Medication Use Safety & Policy / Drug Information, Leadership, Research Project, Teaching, Staffing/Operations

### What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?

*Start growing your network by developing solid relationships with preceptors, physicians/providers, nurses, pharmacists and others on the healthcare team; seek out mentors and sponsors who can assist in guiding your professional growth* -**Sharon Mindel**

*Be open to trying new things and exploring new areas of interest you maybe hadn't considered before – your PGY-1 is a time to learn and grow, so take advantage of any interesting opportunities* -**Jess Lise**

## Sharon Mindel, PharmD, MBA

Assistant Director of Clinical Services  
PGY-1 Residency Program Director



## Jessica Lise, PharmD, BCPPS

Pediatric Clinical Pharmacist  
Residency Program Coordinator





**Victoria Arthus, PharmD**

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Hillsborough, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** Rutgers University — Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Favorite hobbies:** Watching anime, playing with her dog, spending time with family

**Research project:** Optimization of Intravenous Tobramycin Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Pediatric Patients with Cystic Fibrosis

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Ambulatory Care  
RWJBarnabas Health

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**Valassia Antigone “Noni”**

**Theocarides, PharmD**

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Colts Neck, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** Rutgers University — Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Favorite hobbies:** Gardening, hiking, playing piano, spending time with family and friends

**Research project:** RINSS-OM: Retrospective Investigation of Normal Saline vs. Supersaturated Calcium Phosphate to Prevent Oral Mucositis

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Oncology—Moffitt Cancer Center

# Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick



## Gregory Kelly, PharmD, MS, BCCCP

PGY-2 Emergency Medicine  
Residency Program Director



The PGY-2 residency in emergency medicine pharmacy will focus on the provision of clinical pharmacy services to RWJUH Emergency Department (ED) in New Brunswick, NJ.



RWJUH is the level I trauma center in Adult and Pediatrics for Central New Jersey seeing approximately 90,000 patients annually. The resident's focus will be on the direct care of ED patients in treatment areas such as emergent care, urgent care, non-urgent care, and pediatrics. The PGY-2 residency in emergency medicine pharmacy is designed to transition PGY-1 residency graduates from generalist practice to specialized practice, which meets the needs of patients in the emergency department setting. Upon completion of training, graduates are equipped to be fully integrated members of the interdisciplinary emergency medicine team, are able to prioritize responsibilities and utilization of resources, and are able to make complex medication recommendations in this fast-paced environment. Training focuses on developing residents' capability to deal with a wide range of diseases and disorders that occurs in patients in the emergency environment.

### PGY-2 Required Rotations include:

- Orientation
- Emergency Medicine—General
- Emergency Medicine—Resuscitation
- Emergency Medicine—Pre-hospital Care
- Emergency Medicine— Observation
- Emergency Medicine—Academic
- Medical Intensive Care
- Pediatric Intensive Care
- Toxicology
- Trauma
- Longitudinal: Antimicrobial stewardship, research, and staffing/operations

### What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?

"Work hard but also remember to have fun and enjoy along the way. Your career is a marathon, not a sprint so make sure to pace yourself accordingly and allow time for the important things in your life outside of work."

**- Gregory Kelly**

# Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick



## Russell Scarpa, PharmD

PGY-2 Emergency Medicine  
Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Pennsville, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy

**PGY-1 program:** Penn Presbyterian Medical Center

**Favorite hobbies:** Reading, exploring outdoors, listening to music

**Research project:** Management Patterns in Intermediate-Risk Pulmonary Embolism

**Future Directions:** Emergency Medicine / Critical Care Pharmacist at Inova Medical Center Fairfax; Falls Church, VA

## Daniel Radev, PharmD

PGY-2 Emergency Medicine  
Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Mansfield, MA

**Pharmacy school:** The University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy

**PGY-1 program:** The Brooklyn Hospital Center

**Favorite hobbies:** Exploring different cultures through food and traveling to new countries

**Research project:** Management Patterns in Intermediate-Risk Pulmonary Embolism

**Future Directions:** Emergency Medicine Clinical Pharmacist at NYC Health + Hospitals/ Bellevue Hospital, New York, NY

# Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick



## Daniel Abazia, PharmD, BCPS, CPPS

Clinical Associate Professor and PGY-  
2 Medication Use Safety and Policy  
Residency Program Director



The PGY2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy (MUSP) residency program at RWJUH – New Brunswick offers advanced training in medication management with an emphasis in medication safety, formulary management, drug information, quality improvement, and fostering a culture of safety. The program is designed to transition PGY1 residency graduates from generalist practice to a specialized role as a leader in the development of safe and effective medication-use policies/processes/systems and an expert in analysis and communication of medication-related information.

The primary training site is the Medication-Use Safety and Information Center (MUSIC), located on the RWJUH campus and supported by the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP) at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The center was originally founded as a Drug Information Service in 1990 to serve healthcare professionals in NJ. It currently responds to approximately 500 requests annually from healthcare professionals and the public from all over the United States. The MUSIC team includes a director who is an EMSOP faculty member, PGY2 MUSP resident(s), RPIF/J&J Medical Information fellow(s), and EMSOP APPE students. The center has become a national clearinghouse for Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) and medication interaction information.

### **What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?**

One of my favorite motivational quotes is from Thomas Edison, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Don't let status quo guide your career or day-to-day activities. Dare to be different and don't be afraid to blaze your own trail.

**- Daniel Abazia**

### **Other opportunities our residents have participated in:**

Didactic and experiential teaching opportunities with EMSOP

Development and presentation of an ACPE-accredited CE program

Pharmaceutical industry networking opportunities with the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellow (RPIF) program and medical information learning experience (elective)

Clinical elective learning experiences available in investigational drug services, adult oncology, and internal medicine, and the NJ Poison Information and Education Service (NJPIES)



# Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick



## Cara Christopher, PharmD, MPH

PGY-2 Medication-Use Safety and  
Policy Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Hammonton, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** Thomas Jefferson University College of Pharmacy

**PGY-1 program:** Temple University Health System

**Favorite hobbies:** Cooking, dancing, spending time at the beach

**Research project:** Insulin Delivery Optimization in Adult Inpatients Across an Integrated Health System Using Process Improvement Methodology

**Future Directions:** Medication & Patient Safety, Quality & Regulatory Compliance, Drug Information and Diversion

## Vincent Muscarella, PharmD

PGY-2 Medication-Use Safety and  
Policy Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Staten Island, NY

**Pharmacy school:** St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

**PGY-1 program:** Brooklyn VA—NY Harbor Healthcare System

**Favorite hobbies:** Golfing, eating pizza, weight training

**Research project:** Impact of an Anticoagulation Stewardship Program on Reducing Weight-Based Unfractionated Heparin Use Across a Multi-Hospital Health System

**Future Directions:** Pharmacy informatics, Drug Diversion Software Technology, Regulatory Compliance



# Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset

**RWJBarnabas**  
HEALTH

## Matthew Young, PharmD, BCPS

Director of Pharmacy Services



## Tim Jacisin, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Coordinator, PGY-1 Residency  
Program Director



## Jessica Hu, PharmD, BCCCP

Clinical Assistant Professor, Clinical Pharmacy  
Specialist—Critical Care, PGY1 Pharmacy  
Residency Coordinator



Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset is a 343-bed community teaching hospital located in Somerville, New Jersey providing comprehensive emergency, medical/surgical, and behavioral health services. The hospital is also distinguished for its Joint Surgery Institute and its Stroke Center as well as its Steeplechase Cancer Center. RWJUH Somerset has three chemotherapy pharmacy specialists in addition to three clinical pharmacy specialists in internal medicine, critical care, and emergency medicine who are affiliated with the Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.

The PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program is an ASHP accredited program with two pharmacy residents. Residents have the opportunity to rotate through a variety of experiences such as internal medicine, critical care, emergency medicine, infectious disease, drug information and medication safety, informatics, oncology, and transitions of care. Longitudinal rotations include pharmacy administration and operations and oncology. Our residents participated in several community outreach events and have assisted with several lectures at Rutgers EMSOP

### What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?

"Residency isn't only about learning medicine, it's about growing into the kind of pharmacist you want to be. Each challenge is proof you're ready for the next one."

- **Matthew Young**

"With your training as a foundation, lead with knowledge, serve with purpose, and grow with every challenge."

- **Tim Jacisin**

"Be curious about your learning and don't be afraid to ask questions! Take advantage of this opportunity to grow clinically and professionally."

- **Jessica Hu**

**Adelina Gallo, PharmD**

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Branchburg, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Favorite hobbies:** Attending Broadway shows, spending time at the beach, and trying new restaurants

**Research projects:** : Evaluation of Twice Daily Dosing of Enoxaparin for Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis in Obese Patients

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Emergency Medicine—Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick

**Jack Lyman, PharmD**

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Oldwick, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**Favorite hobbies:** Hiking, playing with dogs, going to the movies

**Research projects:** Genetic Determinates of Psychotropic Response: Opportunities for Optimization

**Future Directions:** Obtain a full-time hospital pharmacist position

## Heather DeSanto, PharmD, BCSCP

Director of Pharmacy



## Jessica Bente, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, BCGP

Clinical Coordinator



## Francesco Ciummo, PharmD, BCCCP

PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director



Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center is a 600-bed tertiary care, community hospital in Livingston, NJ that has long been recognized as a leader in providing the highest level of patient care. Cooperman Barnabas has more than 100 medical and surgical specialty and subspecialty services including nationally recognized Renal and Pancreas Transplant Division, Heart Centers, Stroke Center, and Burn Center.

The PGY-1 Residency is an ASHP-accredited program since 1993, currently supporting four pharmacy residents. Required PGY-1 Rotations include ambulatory care, transplant clinic or transitions of care, ICU or CCU, perioperative services or emergency medicine, infectious disease or renal transplant, internal medicine, pediatrics or geriatrics. The PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency is designed to develop specialized clinicians to serve older adults in the acute and ambulatory settings.

### What advice do you have for this year's residents as they embark on their careers?

Do not be afraid to ask questions if you do not know something. If you do not ask, you still will not know.

**- Heather DeSanto**

Make sure to take some time off and go on a vacation after finishing the year and starting your next job. You guys have worked hard and need some time to reset!

**- Francesco Ciummo**



## Ljubica Minova, PharmD, BCGP

PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency  
Program Director



## Angela Antonello, PharmD, BCPS, BCEMP, BCCCP

PGY-2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency  
Program Director



Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center is a 600-bed tertiary care, community hospital in Livingston, NJ that has long been recognized as a leader in providing the highest level of patient care. Cooperman Barnabas has more than 100 medical and surgical specialty and subspecialty services including nationally recognized Renal and Pancreas Transplant Division, Heart Centers, Stroke Center, and Burn Center.

As you embark on your career, don't be afraid to lean into new and unknown opportunities because you might end up in places you never thought were possible!

**- Ljubica Minova**

Be present, stay engaged, and make the most of every learning opportunity – your future self will thank you!

**- Angela Antonello**



## Ramija Alam, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Queens, New York

**Pharmacy school:** St. John's University - College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Queens, NY

**Favorite hobbies:** Traveling, biking, jewelry making, spending time with friends/family and trying new foods!

**Research project:**

1. Adherence Assessment of Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support - Recommended Pharmacologic Interventions in Cardiac Arrest
2. Evaluation of Emergency Department Discharge Prescribing Patterns of Potentially Inappropriate Medications in Older Adults

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy - RWJBarnabas Health Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital & Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

## Taylor Bordamonte, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Clifton, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy—Rutgers University

**Favorite hobbies:** Running, sleeping, hanging out with my family, traveling

**Research project:**

1. Characterization of Dalbavancin Treatment in the Pediatric Population
2. Pharmacist Immediate-use Compounding of 4-Factor Prothrombin Complex Concentrate to Decrease Time to Anticoagulation Reversal

**Future Directions:** PGY-2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy - RWJBarnabas Health Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital & Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

## Pablo Becerra, PharmD

PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Elizabeth, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy  
– Rutgers University

**Favorite hobbies:** Spending time with friends and family, going to the gym, playing soccer

**Research projects:**

Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis in the Acute Burn Service

**Future Directions:** Pursuing a full-time health system pharmacist position

## Kristina Logan, PharmD

PGY-2 Geriatrics Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Old Bridge, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** St. John Fisher University  
Wegman's School of Pharmacy

**PGY-1 Site:** Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center

**Favorite hobbies:** Plants, reading, art, DIY

**Research project:** Antipsychotic

**Future Directions:** Assistant Professor at Long Island University and Clinical Pharmacist at The Brooklyn Hospital Center

## Cory Gaulrapp, PharmD

PGY-2 Critical Care Pharmacy Resident



**Hometown:** Hainesport, NJ

**Pharmacy school:** Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

**PGY-1 Site:** Temple University Hospital, PA

**Favorite hobbies:** Sleeping, word games, spending time with my dog

**Research projects:**

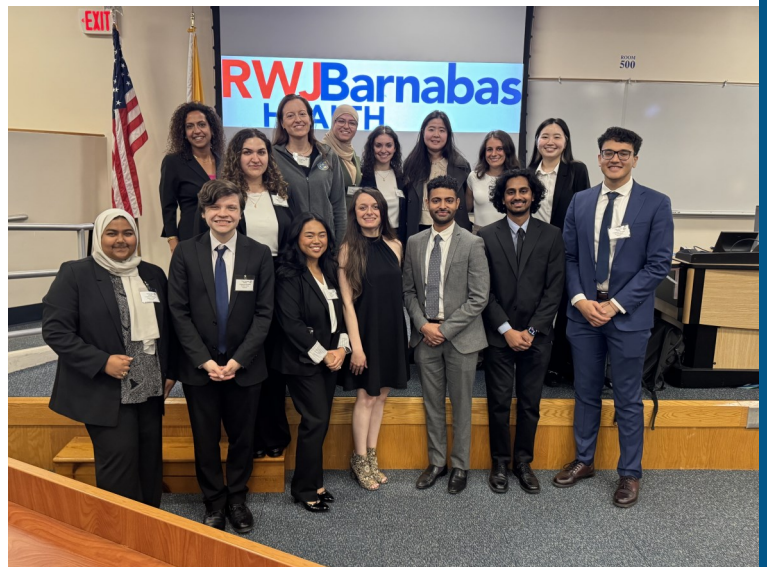
1. Andexanet Alfa versus Prothrombin Complex Concentrate in the Perioperative Setting
2. Optimizing Angiotensin II Prescribing in Distributive Shock

**Future Directions:** Critical Care Clinical Specialist at Saint Michael's Medical Center, NJ



# Fun with the Pharmacy Residency Class of 2025-2026

Throughout the year, residents, preceptors, and other program personnel built strong relationships and lasting memories.

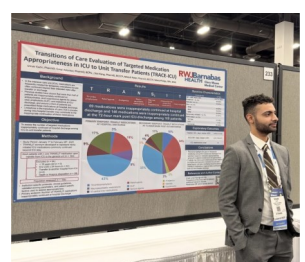
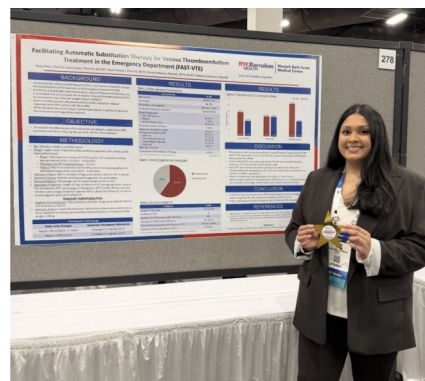
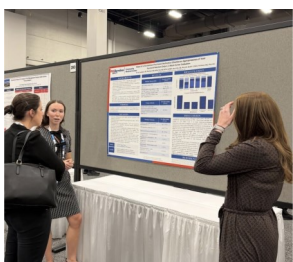
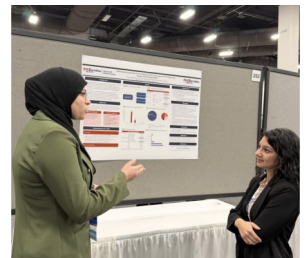
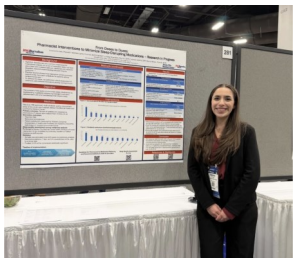
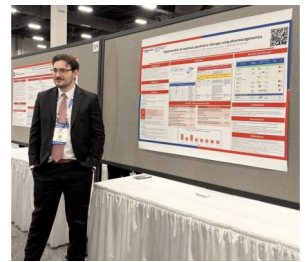
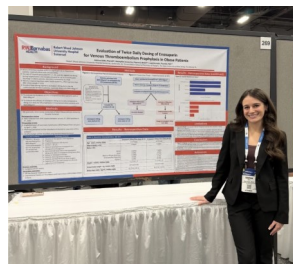
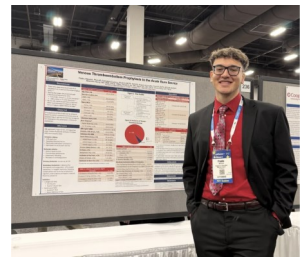
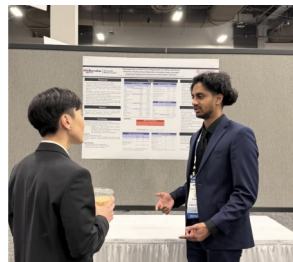
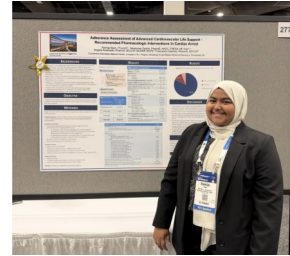
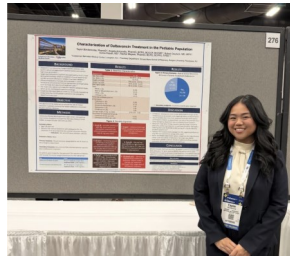
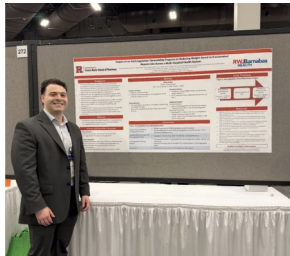
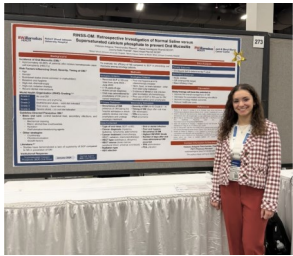




# American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

## 2025 Annual Midyear Conference

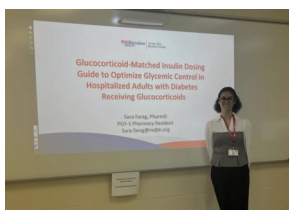
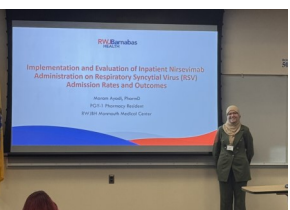
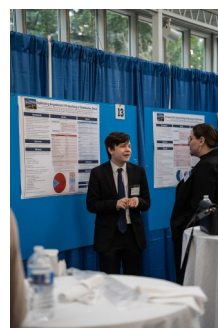
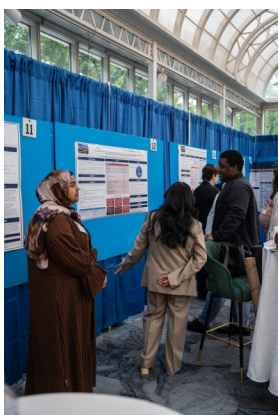
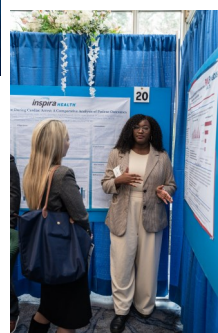
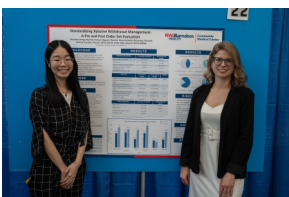
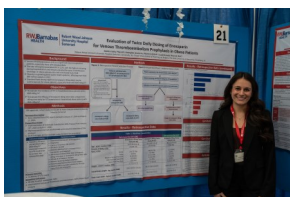
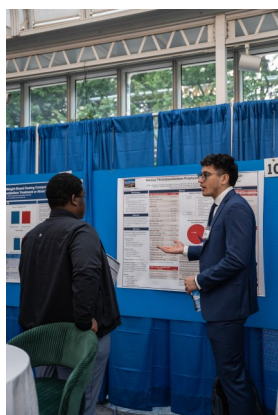
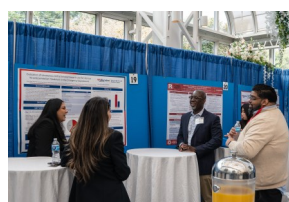
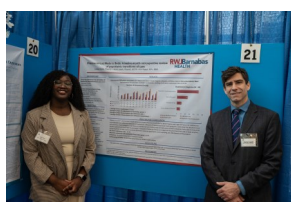
This year's 2025 ASHP Midyear conference was held in-person at Las Vegas, Nevada. This conference is the largest gathering of pharmacists in the world, featuring both in person and online events. ASHP Midyear has provided health-system pharmacy practitioners with opportunities to network with fellow colleagues, enhance their knowledge, and learn about the newest products and technologies.





# Research Presentations

Residents presented their research at several conferences this year, including the New Jersey Society of Health System Pharmacy (NSJHP) Annual Meeting and the NJSHP RxPlorations Residency Research Presentation Day. The PGY-2 residents also have additional opportunities to attend conferences in their specialty area like the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the American Geriatrics Society.



# 2026

## **Six Principles**

**Advocacy**

**Community**

**Finance**

**Quality &  
Safety**

**Research &  
Publication**

**Education**

# Applying the Six Principles During Residency

## Advocacy

*“In a time of need, you would want someone to advocate for medication safety and adherence. We as pharmacists can step in and make that intervention!”*

**- Juhee Jeong**

*“Pharmacists who advocate do not simply speak for their profession—they speak for every patient who has ever depended on safe, accessible, and informed care. Advocacy in pharmacy is the bridge between policy and practice, ensuring that the voices of those closest to the medication process are heard where decisions are made.”*

**- Cara Christopher**



## Community

*“It takes a whole village to take care of a patient. From doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and pharmacists, it is a group effort to provide high quality patient care on a daily basis. We as pharmacists have the unique opportunity to get involved in patient care and make meaningful medication-related interventions. As such, we have become highly valued members of the interdisciplinary team and of the community.”*

**- Christina Cheng**

*“Pharmacists play a crucial role in healthcare economics, balancing cost efficiency with patient safety. They manage high-cost medications, optimize drug therapies to reduce hospital stays, and minimize waste through precise inventory control. By ensuring timely access to critical treatments and collaborating with medical teams, hospital pharmacists improve patient outcomes while curbing unnecessary healthcare expenses. Their expertise isn't just about dispensing drugs—it's about making every dollar count in delivering quality care.”*

**- Kristina Logan**

## Quality & Patient Safety

*“In pharmacy, quality care and patient safety are woven into our profession. With every intervention, verification, and patient interaction, we work to ensure the highest standards of care and safety for every patient. Pharmacists stand as a critical safeguard within healthcare, using their expertise to prevent harm, optimize therapy, and enhance patient outcomes.”*

**- Maram Ayadi**

## Research & Publication

*“When a pharmacist steps into the world of research and publication, they carry with them years of clinical insight, patient interaction, and scientific rigor that no other discipline can replicate. Our contributions do not simply add to a body of knowledge; they shape the very foundation upon which safer, more effective patient care is built.”*

**- Daniel Radev**

## Education

*“The role of the pharmacist in education is multidimensional and transformational. Educating patients, healthcare providers, pharmacy students, and others is at the cornerstone of our profession. The pharmacist role in education is central to how communities understand and manage their health and having the opportunity to educate is both an honor and a privilege.”*

**- Vincent Muscarella**

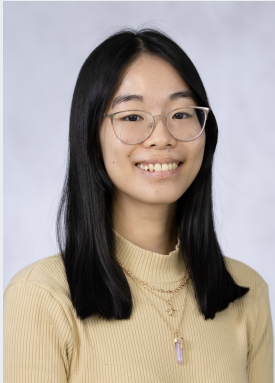
*“Pharmacists who educate do more than teach—they multiply their impact across generations. By sharing their knowledge, clinical wisdom and dedication to patient care, they shape the minds that will carry the profession forward. A pharmacist who inspires even one student has extended their legacy far beyond the reach of any single career.”*

**- Russell Scarpa**



# Residency Annual Report Committee

## Committee Chairs:



**Christina Cheng**



**Vincent Muscarella**



**Daniel Radev**

## Committee Members:



**Maram Ayadi**



**Victoria Corriere**



**Adelina Gallo**



**Johnathan Kurian**



**Pooja Patel**



**Noni Theocharides**

# **CLASS OF 2025-2026**

## **SIGN ME!**



