

UBC COMMUNITY PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

What is the UBC Community Pharmacy Residency Program?

A post baccalaureate education and training program offered by the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences to advance pharmacy practice as a patient-centered profession and create community pharmacy practice leaders. This was established to prepare pharmacists with the advanced training required to work in expanding patient care roles in a variety of primary care/family practice clinics, interprofessional team based sites and other innovative community pharmacy based settings.

The Community Pharmacy Residency at UBC began in 1981 as the first of its kind in Canada, when a group of forward thinkers recognized the need for more advanced training in clinical services and pharmacotherapy for community pharmacy practitioners. The program has continued to evolve and be at the cutting edge of community practice as health care delivery and reimbursement shifts have occurred. Improved drug therapy management to optimize patient care remains as the focus.

What are the benefits of this program?

UBC places a high value on the development of pharmacists who can advance practice in the community for a number of reasons:

- The improved clinical expertise of pharmacists will elevate patient care and the demand for more clinical services,
- Pharmacists who complete the residency will be better prepared to serve in advanced practice training sites as preceptors for students, residents and licensed pharmacists wanting to advance their skills,
- There are opportunities for residents to develop skills to provide lectures, clinical lab settings and other teaching responsibilities.

Preceptors place a high value on the development of community pharmacists who can advance practice in the community for a number of reasons:

- Having a resident demonstrates the practice site's commitment to providing exceptional patient care in a progressive environment of advanced patient care services,
- Preceptors demonstrate greater job satisfaction when professional development is supported through the introduction of new ideas, novel patient care activities and unique methods,
- Resident's energy and enthusiasm can inspire the pharmacy staff resulting in more effective and high-quality care,
- Opportunities arise that help develop relationships with other members of the health care team to expand collaborative care opportunities for the practice site.

Past residents of the program place a high value on their training and experience where many have become leaders as advanced patient care providers in a variety of patient care settings. As the role of the community pharmacist progresses, our former residents will be at the forefront of practice change. If you wish to become part of this movement, then please apply.

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Program Description

The program is one year in length and is offered at a variety of sites across the lower Mainland and in Victoria. Our dedicated preceptors practice pharmacy in unique ways that go beyond the everyday practice. The program's success is a result of the wide range of different clinical sites and preceptor expertise.

Core clinical Rotations (interdisciplinary sites) include: Palliative Care, Oncology, Renal program, UBC Pharmacists Clinic, Quick Response team, HIV (Providence Health Care), Cool Aid- Access Health Centre, chronic pain clinics, Lower mainland pharmacy services Gateway home and community care (outreach services for the elderly), long-term care facilities, Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre, Mid Main Community Health Center, Ravensong Community Health Center, UBC Health Clinic (family practice teaching site), Aboriginal health, Clinicare family practice sites.

Other Core rotations: Shoppers Drug Mart #208 and Howe Sound Pharmacy; Drug and Poison Information Center, Counter-detailing, UBC Continuing Education, BC College of Pharmacists and BC Pharmacy Association.

Core curriculum is provided along with hospital residents to cover literature evaluation, evidence-based medicine topics and pharmacokinetics. Community residents have additional training in laboratory values, documentation, teaching (lecture preparation), patient and interprofessional communication skills. Opportunities for verbal and written presentations are numerous throughout the program. Self-directed study and patient work-ups on relevant ambulatory topics are completed during each rotation and are dependent on the expertise of the preceptors.

Elective rotations have included aboriginal health, women's health, anticoagulation training and many others. There is opportunity to design new rotations to meet an identified need in the community or specific interest of the resident.

The program is endorsed by the BC College of Pharmacists of BC and the BC Pharmacy Association.

We are grateful for the continued financial support provided by the BC College of Pharmacists of BC.

Schommer JC et al. J Am Pharm Assoc. 2010;50:e72-e88