PGY2 Pharmacy Residency Program
Critical Care

Department of Pharmacy
622 West 168th Street, VC-B
New York, NY 10032

http://www.nyp.org/pharmacy
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is the largest, not-for-profit, non-sectarian hospital in New York. With more than 2600 beds, it provides state-of-the-art inpatient, ambulatory, and preventive care in all areas of medicine at seven major centers: Weill Cornell Medical Center, Columbia University Medical Center, Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, Phyllis and David Komansky Center for Children's Health, Lower Manhattan Hospital, The Allen Hospital, and Westchester Division.

As one of the largest and most comprehensive healthcare institutions in the world, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is committed to excellence in patient care, research, education, and community service. It ranks sixth on the U.S. News & World Report's guide to Best Hospitals. This academic medical center has affiliations with two of the nation's leading medical colleges: Weill Cornell Medical College and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

NewYork-Presbyterian has an extensive system of Intensive Care Units that offer the highest level of expertise in trauma and critical care management, with dedicated specialists available 24 hours per day. Our 17 ICUs house over 400 patient beds. Each year, over 15,000 patients are admitted to these facilities for critical care.

We hope you are interested in joining our team!

---

**NYP Critical Care Pharmacy Residency Alumni**

**2013-2014**

**Daryl Paris, PharmD, BCCCP**
Research: Effect of dexmedetomidine on postoperative tachyarrhythmias in cardiac surgery patients  
MUE: Evaluation of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia in patients receiving ECMO  
First Position: Medical/Surgical Intensive Care Unit Clinical Pharmacist, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center  
Current Position: Critical Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Mount Sinai Beth Israel

**Robert Witcher, PharmD, BCCCP**
Research: Efficacy of quetiapine in critically ill pediatric patients with delirium  
MUE: Effects of an early mobilization protocol on sedation practices in the neurosciences Intensive Care Unit  
First Position: Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Clinical Pharmacy Manager, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital  
Current Position: Clinical Pharmacotherapy Specialist—Pediatrics, NYU Langone Medical Center

**2014-2015**

**Caroline Der-Nigoghossian, PharmD, BCCCP**
Research: Effect of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation use on sedative requirements during severe ARDS  
MUE: Remifentanil use in the operating room  
First and Current Position: Adult Critical Care/Spinal Cord Unit Clinical Pharmacy Manager, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

**Veronica Raco, PharmD, BCCCP**
Research: Tolerability of subanesthetic ketamine in postoperative patients  
MUE: Effectiveness and tolerability of a heparin guideline for patients receiving ECMO  
First and Current Position: Internal Medicine Pharmacotherapy Specialist, New York University Langone Medical Center

**2015-2016**

**Adam Pennoyer, PharmD**
Research: Rocuronium vs. cisatracurium for the treatment of moderate to severe acute respiratory distress syndrome  
MUE: Evaluating outcomes of intracoronary sodium nitroprusside versus intracoronary nicardipine for slow or no-reflow during percutaneous coronary intervention  
First and Current Position: Clinical Assistant Professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Pharmacy

**Samantha Moore, PharmD**
Research: An evaluation of the use of ketamine as an adjunct sedative in the surgical intensive care unit  
MUE: An evaluation of inhaled iloprost therapy at a large academic medical center  
First and Current Position: Assistant Professor, St. John’s University College of Pharmacy
NewYork-Presbyterian is an internationally-renowned quaternary care referral center able to provide for a variety of high-acuity patients. Within the hospital, we run a Level I Trauma Center and two Level I Pediatric Trauma Centers. Advanced interventions include solid organ transplantation, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, neurosurgery, sophisticated brain monitoring, burn care, and complex surgical procedures.

**Columbia University Medical Center**
- Coronary Care Unit
- Cardiothoracic ICU
- Medical ICU
- Neurosciences ICU
- Surgical ICU

**Weill Cornell Medical Center**
- Burn ICU
- Coronary Care Unit
- Cardiothoracic ICU
- Medical ICU
- Neurosciences ICU
- Surgical ICU
- Neonatal ICU
- Pediatric ICU

**The Allen Hospital**
- Mixed Medical/Surgical ICU

**Lower Manhattan Hospital**
- Mixed Medical/Surgical/Neurosciences ICU

**Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital**
- Cardiac ICU
- Neonatal ICU
- Pediatric ICU

---

**Brittany Verkerk, PharmD**  
*PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Resident*  
*NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital*  
**Email:** bsk9003@nyp.org

- **PharmD:** University of the Pacific
- **PGY1:** Stanford Health Care
- **Research:** Comparison of sedative requirements in patients with ARDS receiving ECMO in obese versus non-obese patients
- **MUE:** Aminocaproic acid for reversal of TPA

---

**Melissa Santibañez, PharmD**  
*PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Resident*  
*NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital*  
**Email:** mes9139@nyp.org

- **PharmD:** Nova Southeastern University
- **PGY1:** University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Research:** Comparison of PCC at NYPH for warfarin and non-warfarin reversal
- **MUE:** Evaluation of nimodipine use in subarachnoid hemorrhage
Program Overview

The NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) PGY2 residency program in Critical Care was established in 2007 and is a full-time post-graduate training program for practitioners who desire to advance their knowledge and skills in critical care pharmacotherapy. Our program is committed to providing residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to become a capable pharmacy practitioner. This involves intensive training in a wide variety of practice settings with a diverse patient population that NYP is uniquely capable of providing. The program is flexible and focuses on the goals of the resident, but is intended to provide a well-rounded clinical, research, and teaching experience.

Employment Information

PGY2 Pharmacy Residency Program in Critical Care
Duration: 12 months
Positions: 2
Starting Date: July 1
Estimated Stipend: $50,000
Application Deadline: January 8
Interview Required: Yes

Benefits
Additional benefits include health, dental, and life insurance, sick leave, paid time off, and travel reimbursement for professional meetings. Residents also qualify for on-site subsidized housing, if available.

Meet Our Preceptors

Liz G. Ramos, BS, PharmD, BCPS
Medical/Burn Critical Care
Weill Cornell Medical Center
Email: lir9012@nyp.org
PharmD: St. John’s University
Critical Care Residency: Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center

Urshila Shah, PharmD, BCPS
Critical Care
Lower Manhattan Hospital
Email: urs9004@nyp.org
PharmD: University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
PGY1: Western NY Healthcare System – Buffalo VA

Caroline Der-Nigoghossian, PharmD, BCCCP
Adult Critical Care, Spinal Cord Unit
The Allen Hospital
Email: cad9105@nyp.org
PharmD: Lebanese American University
PGY1: NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
PGY2 (Critical Care): NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Alana Ciolek, PharmD, BCPS
Cardiothoracic Critical Care
Columbia University Medical Center
Email: amc9096@nyp.org
PharmD: Jefferson College of Pharmacy
PGY1: The Johns Hopkins Hospital
PGY2 (Cardiology): The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Audrey Littlefield, PharmD, BCPS
Cardiothoracic Critical Care
Weill Cornell Medical Center
Email: ajl9010@nyp.org
PharmD: University of Connecticut
PGY1: Yale-New Haven Hospital
PGY2 (Critical Care): Yale-New Haven Hospital
All residents are required to complete rotations in core subject areas considered essential to providing a well-rounded experience. In addition, a wide variety of elective rotations are offered allowing residents flexibility in pursuing their individual areas of interest.

**Required Rotations**
- Medical Intensive Care 6 weeks
- Surgical Intensive Care 6 weeks
- Neurosciences Intensive Care 6 weeks
- Cardiothoracic Intensive Care/Coronary Critical Care 6 weeks

**Elective Rotations**
- Burn Intensive Care 4 weeks
- Infectious Diseases 4 weeks
- Coronary Care 4 weeks
- Emergency Medicine 4 weeks
- Solid Organ Transplantation (heart, liver, lung) 4 weeks
- Neonatal Intensive Care 4 weeks
- Pediatric Intensive Care 4 weeks
- Nutrition Support 2 weeks

Additional learning experiences include the development of teaching skills by providing in-service presentations to pharmacy staff and other health care providers, precepting PGY1 residents and pharmacy students, leading case-based clinical discussions, and critically evaluating literature.
Meet Our Preceptors

Amy L. Dzierba, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM
Program Director, Critical Care Residency
Medical Critical Care
Columbia University Medical Center
Email: ald9012@nyp.org
PharmD: Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy
PGY1: Grady Health System
PGY2 (Critical Care): University of Washington Medical Center/Harborview Medical Center

Karen Berger, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
Neurosciences Critical Care
Weill Cornell Medical Center
Email: kab9098@nyp.org
PharmD: University of Florida
PGY1: Yale-New Haven Hospital
PGY2 (Critical Care): University of Illinois at Chicago

Melissa Miller, PharmD, BCPS
Emergency Medicine
Columbia University Medical Center
Email: mam9470@nyp.org
PharmD: University of Nebraska Medical Center
PGY1: UMass Memorial Medical Center
PGY2 (Critical Care): Boston Medical Center

Karlene Ma, PharmD, BCPS
Coronary Critical Care
Columbia University Medical Center
Email: kam9080@nyp.org
PharmD: Rutgers University
PGY1: James J. Peters VA Medical Center
PGY2 (Critical Care): NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Application Requirements

Admission to the residency program is available to PharmD graduates of accredited colleges of pharmacy after completing a PGY1 residency program (or equivalent). Residents must be United States citizens or carry a permanent resident visa. New York licensure is required.

A limited (Intern) permit, issued by the office of Professions – New York State Board of Pharmacy, is necessary until licensure as a pharmacist in New York is obtained.

NYP Residency Programs participate in the ASHP-associated Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS). To apply for the residency program, the following items must be submitted through PhORCAS by the due date to be considered for an on-site interview:

- Letter of intent stating goals and interests
- Curriculum vitae
- Three references in PhORCAS
- Official college transcripts

For additional information, please contact:

Amy L. Dzierba, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM
Email: ald9012@nyp.org