

CDC Pharmacy Student Experiential Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is based in Atlanta, GA. CDC's Mission is to collaborate to create the expertise, information, and tools that people and communities need to protect their health – through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats.

This Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience will give the student a general understanding of pertinent public health issues, the roles pharmacists have within CDC, as well as the career opportunities available for pharmacists in the U.S. Public Health Service. The student will be able to take advantage of the many public health lectures/seminars that are presented at CDC during their rotation.

[Click here to read more about the roles of CDC Pharmacists](#)

Goals and Objectives

The CDC Pharmacy Student Experiential Program provides an opportunity to learn about the CDC multidisciplinary processes for addressing a wide variety of public health issues, such as disease prevention and control, designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.

The CDC Pharmacy Student Experiential Program is designed to familiarize the pharmacy student with the missions, functions, and organizational structure of the [Department of Health and Human Services](#) (DHHS), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), and the [U.S. Public Health Service](#) (PHS).

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CDC Rotation Sites

Practice Site/ Preceptor(s)	Specific Program Details
<p>Drug Service *Julian Jolly, PharmD, RPh Christopher Allen, MPH, RPh Cindy Dougherty, PharmD., RPh</p>	<p>The CDC Drug Service procures, maintains, and distributes special biologic agents and drugs to physicians in the US for the treatment of rare diseases or for the protection of researchers working with certain agents. Students will gain experience in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inventory and procurement practices for licensed and investigational pharmaceutical agents - data collection tools used in maintaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for protocols, response forms, and consent forms - resources for providing pharmaceutical information on drugs and biologics available at CDC to other federal agencies, state health departments, and public inquiries - collaborating with various CDC investigators on pharmaceutical-related issues - exposure to various subject matter related to infectious diseases - veterinary medicine/pharmacy practice: compounding for veterinary patients, regulatory restrictions on veterinary compounding, common disease states in laboratory animals
<p>Regulatory Affairs *Yon Yu, Pharm D, RPh Hye-Joo Kim, Pharm D, RPh Tina Bhavsar, Pharm D., RPh</p>	<p>Regulatory Affairs (RA) supports the critical task of ensuring availability and utility of medical countermeasures (MCMs) that are essential to CDC's preparedness and response activities. RA's active involvement in CDC's bioterrorism preparedness and emergency response activities is reflected in its primary oversight in ensuring regulatory compliance regarding critical MCMs against potential threats from natural, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear events. To enable rapid and effective response during events that require appropriate use of MCMs, many of which are only available through CDC, RA coordinates with Subject Matter Experts to initiate the development of required regulatory mechanisms such as Investigational New Drug applications, Emergency Use Authorization requests, and Investigational Device Exemptions. RA also provides regulatory expertise to SMEs and Principal Investigators regarding use of medical products (e.g., drugs, biologics, devices) for both non-research and research purposes.</p>
<p>Division Of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) – combined - Epidemiology Branch *Paul Weidle, PharmD, MPH Vasavi Thomas, RPh, MPH</p> <p>And</p> <p>Office of the Director Donna H. McCree, PhD, MPH, RPh</p>	<p>The Epidemiology Branch is part of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. The Epidemiology Branch is responsible for CDC's domestic and also conducts international HIV research. The Branch has four science teams – Health Services Research for Prevention with Positives Team (HSR-PWP), Health Services Research for Prevention with Negatives Team (HSR-PWN), Epidemiology Research Team, and Clinical Trials Team. The Branch is composed of approximately 60 full-time scientists and support staff, most based in Atlanta, along with international field staff currently stationed in Botswana, Kenya, and Thailand. The student will be exposed to a variety of projects on the HSR-PWP and HSR-PWN team, as well as, have opportunity to work on projects with other branches in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.</p> <p>Students selected for this rotation will also work under the Direction of Dr. McCree, who serves as the Associate Director for Health Equity. Projects will focus on methods for identifying and strategies to address HIV-related health inequities among populations that are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS.</p>

<p><u>Division of Bacterial Diseases</u> <u>- Respiratory Diseases Branch- Get Smart Campaign</u> *Rebecca Roberts, MS Lauri Hicks, DO</p>	<p>Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work is a health education campaign that targets both consumers and healthcare providers to promote the appropriate use of antibiotics in the community for respiratory infections. Campaign Goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the rate of rise of antibiotic resistance by: - Promoting adherence to appropriate prescribing guidelines among providers - Decreasing demand for antibiotics for viral upper respiratory infections among healthy adults and parents of young children - Increasing adherence to antibiotics prescribed for upper respiratory infections <p>The campaign targets the five respiratory conditions that account for a great majority of antibiotic prescriptions: otitis media, sinusitis, pharyngitis, bronchitis, and the common cold.</p>
<p><u>Division of Emergency Operations (DEO) – Emergency Risk Communications Branch (ERCB) – Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)</u> *Ibad Khan, PharmD Loretta Jackson-Brown, PhD, RN, CNN Leticia Davila, MPH, CHES Sandy McKnight, MPH</p>	<p>The CDC Emergency Communication System’s Clinician Communication Team manages the Clinician Outreach Communication Activity (COCA) to ensure that clinicians have the up-to-date information they need. COCA is designed to provide two-way communication between clinicians and the CDC about emerging health threats, such as pandemics, natural disasters, and terrorism.</p> <p>COCA operates in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help clinicians provide the best possible care to patients by supplying them with the most current and reliable information. - Disseminate evidence-based health information and public health emergency messages to clinicians. - Provide and promote emergency preparedness and response training opportunities. - Obtain feedback from healthcare provider audiences to help improve emergency communications to clinicians. - Identify clinical issues during emergencies to help direct communication strategy and outreach to clinicians. <p>COCA serves a wide variety of clinicians, including: physicians, nurses, physician’s assistants, pharmacists, paramedics, veterinarians, epidemiologists, public health practitioners, and state and local health department officials. In addition, COCA partners with 176 professional organizations allowing for extended outreach to large populations of clinicians.</p>

*designates primary preceptor

INFORMATION FOR THE STUDENT

How to Apply

Rotations are offered only to students in their last year of pharmacy school. Students must to apply in the year preceding their last year of pharmacy school. Rotations are available throughout the entire year, and may last anywhere from 4-6 weeks, depending upon the school’s experiential program. If you are interested in an experiential rotation at CDC, please submit an application *to your school’s experiential program coordinator* containing the following:

1. Curriculum Vitae

2. A Statement of Interest (no more than 1 page) focusing on how a rotation at CDC would facilitate achievement of your career goals. Please include three potential time slots for your rotation.

3. Rank order of top three preferred rotation sites.

INFORMATION FOR THE SCHOOL'S EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAM

How to submit the application

- **The deadline for all applications is January 1st (of the year prior to the student's graduation year).**
- Applications must be submitted via email by each school's experiential coordinator. Applications will be accepted beginning in August and up through the January 1st deadline.
- Email all application materials to pharmacists@cdc.gov with "Application for _____ (student's name)" in the subject line.

Please limit the number of applications to no more than 5 per school of pharmacy.

Confirmations will be sent via email to verify receipt of each student's application. If you do not receive confirmation within 3 calendar days, please contact us again. Students who are not selected by one of their top preferences may be offered the opportunity to rotate with another site at CDC. The selection process takes place between January and February and schools will be notified by email of the outcome by early March.

We wish to emphasize that the application process is highly competitive and not all applicants will be placed.

Additional Information

Housing/Parking/Transportation

Housing and transportation are not provided by the program. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements prior to the rotation.

Applicants selected for the program must pay for:

- Round-trip transportation to their assigned CDC facility
- Living expenses during the elective

A car is highly recommended, as trips to other CDC campuses may be necessary throughout the course of the rotation. Although a car would offer the greatest flexibility for travel around the city, [MARTA](#), or Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, provides the Atlanta area with bus and rail service and is another option for students.

Legal Requirements

Students are prohibited from releasing, publishing, or disclosing non-public information, specifically any confidential patient information obtained while serving as a CDC student.

Once selected, students will be subject to a background check, as required for all CDC personnel, in order to obtain security clearance before their rotation. In preparation for this clearance, students must complete the following form(s) and mail them together to their preceptor **one month prior to their rotation**:

- [Form 306](#) : Declaration for Federal Employment.
- E-QIP initiation form (will be provided by preceptor)
- Emergency Contact Form (will be provided by preceptor)

**Students must also bring proof of identity and citizenship in the form of either their driver's license AND birth certificate or passport. Non US-citizens should contact their preceptor concerning additional requirements. **

Following the background check, a US Government ID badge and cardkey will be issued to the student. It is the student's responsibility to return this back to their preceptor on the last day of their rotation. Students are not permitted to use their US Government ID for any purpose other than access to CDC campuses or beyond the last day of their rotation.

Texts/Materials

All of the necessary texts and materials for this rotation are provided.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What level of pharmacy students are eligible for the CDC PSEP?

A: At this time, we are only able to accept students who are entering their PY4, Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE).

Q: Do I need a Georgia Pharmacy Intern license?

A: CDC is a federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services. Therefore, pharmacy students practicing as interns *may be* exempt from needing the Georgia Pharmacy Intern license if this is their only rotation in the state of Georgia. Once assigned to a CDC rotation, students are encouraged to talk to their preceptor about this matter before applying for the license.

Q: How do I check the status of my application?

A: We will confirm the receipt of each application by email with the representative from your school's experiential program who submits the application. Selections are announced sometime around early March so you should receive the outcome by that time. Therefore, please check with your school's experiential program coordinator who is responsible for submitting the application if you do not receive feedback by mid-March.

Q: What if I'm not placed with a rotation through the CDC PSEP but I am still interested in exploring other student programs?

A: Students are encouraged to explore other US Public Health Service rotations, listed on the USPHS Pharmacy Advisory Committee webpage. U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corp (USPHS) Student Opportunities:

<http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/students/pdf/stuprog.pdf>

Another useful link: <http://www.usajobs.gov/studentjobs/>

Q: What if I still have questions about the CDC PSEP?

A: Please send an email to pharmacists@cdc.gov with your question. Various CDC pharmacists who are involved in the program monitor this mailbox and will respond accordingly.