



# Updates from the Enterprise

Departing Residents Edition, June 2015

## Farewell 2014-2015 Residents! Pharmacy Practice Residents



**Kristen Ammay  
(University of South  
Carolina)**

This year has truly been a time warp, living in San Francisco's foggiest neighborhood (ironically named the Sunset). In the absence of sweltering 80°F days typical of my time

spent at the South Carolina College of Pharmacy, I have to remind myself the year is nearly complete. As the conclusion of residency nears, I consider the changes that have defined my year: moving from the East to the West coast, and transitioning from student to pharmacist. I sought opportunities far from home to challenge myself, and the experience has been invaluable. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to complete a residency at UCSF; I've been surrounded by brilliant minds, diverse professionals, and motivated individuals. I am thankful for the friendships and support I discovered among my co-residents; this year would not be the same without the unforgettable memories. My residency experience has been an extraordinary adventure of learning and growth that will continue far beyond the conclusion of this residency. Following residency, I plan to stay in California, and will seek job opportunities around San Francisco and San Diego.



**Kora Avdagic  
(UCSF)**

What an amazing year! I still can't believe that just a year ago I graduated from UCSF School of Pharmacy and now it is time to graduate from residency. This year has been both challenging and rewarding, a

wonderful exciting journey full of wonderful memories. I have learned so much from our patients, my co-residents, and my preceptors and faculty. I am very sad to say goodbye to my co-residents, but I know that we will stay friends for many years to come. At UCSF I have had the

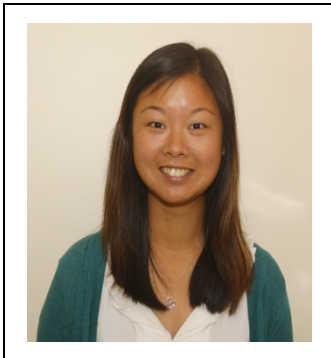
opportunity to work with incredible mentors who have helped me grow into a confident clinician and who have helped me discover and strengthen my areas of interest and passion for clinical pharmacy. Next year I won't be too far as I will be staying at UCSF to complete a second year residency in Psychiatry.



**Mackenzie Clark  
(University of  
Montana)**

Only one short year ago I was finishing school at the University of Montana Skaggs School of Pharmacy making my way to the beautiful city of San Francisco to embark on a life

changing adventure, my PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at UCSF. It seems like just yesterday I was sitting in orientation learning the ins and outs of the Medical Center in awe of the opportunities that were to come. It's hard to believe all that has been accomplished in the past year. The experience has been nothing short of exceptional due to the amazing preceptors, technicians, management, faculty, mentors and other health care professionals with whom I have had the pleasure of working. I appreciate all the time and patience everyone has taken to mold me into the practitioner I am today. Additionally, this year would not have been a success without my corezzies by my side. As I search for the next step in my career I am excited to cross paths with them all again as we take the profession of pharmacy head on! Thank you all for being a part of my UCSF family!



**Esther Fleischman  
(UCSF)**

Ever since moving away from my home in Connecticut to San Francisco to start school at UCSF School of Pharmacy, life has been in “overdrive” for learning and growing. This year was

full of ‘firsts’, such as verifying orders, precepting my own students, responding to code blues/sepsis/strokes and the list goes on! I could not have gotten through these ‘firsts’ (and ‘seconds’, ‘thirds’ etc.) without the preceptors and fellow co-residents who went out of their way to challenge my recommendations, cite studies I missed, share their clinical thought processes and experiences and encourage me. For that UCSF family, I am extremely grateful.

I have made the Bay home. The people I have met both inside and outside of pharmacy in this beautiful place have taught me how to be more inclusive, be more laid back (relative to the East Coast!) and to truly love/enjoy food! I will be staying in the Bay Area and have accepted a position as a Critical Care Pharmacist at John Muir Medical.



**Gary Fong  
(UCSF)**

After 5 years at UCSF, it is finally time for me to leave. It has been an incredible year working alongside my co-residents as well as all the fantastic preceptors and technicians. I have learned an amazing

amount from each of you to get to where I am today is incredible. I still remember timidly tiptoeing through CUDA afraid that I would mess up the workflow and now I am about to staff my last shifts of the residency. It's been a tough and rigorous year, but it was well worth it and I am proud of what we have accomplished. It will certainly be difficult to leave but as we all know, pharmacy is a small world so I plan on seeing y'all around soon!

For the next two years, I'll be located in Houston, Texas completing a fellowship in infectious diseases, a specialty that has *grown on me* throughout my stay here. It will certainly be difficult to not only leave UCSF but also the beautiful state of California. However, I know that because of the extensive training I have received, I will be fully prepared for the challenges that arise.



**Calvin Huynh  
(UCSF)**

It's incredible how fast a Pharm.D. Degree and a PGY1 residency can fly by. Five years later and now I must bid adieu to UCSF as I move forward in starting my PGY2 in critical care at the University of Washington Medicine. It's been a

tremendous journey to get to where I am and I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to share it with everyone at UCSF. It's been a very rigorous and challenging year but I am amazed at the tremendous professional and personal growth of my fellow co-residents and myself. Thank you to all the phenomenal preceptors, faculty, and staff that have been instrumental in facilitating our growth and in mentoring us through this past year. I know that wherever I go, I will be taking a little bit of UCSF with me.



**Marti Larriva  
(University of Arizona)**

Leaving the cozy desert of Tucson, AZ for the first time to come out to the fog at UCSF for my PGY1 has been one of the most formative experiences of my career. The preceptors, managers, and technicians

at UCSF have made this year an enjoyable one filled with many valuable lessons. With all of your help I have become a much more competent and confident pharmacist and I will be forever grateful. I have accepted a position at the University of Arizona, College of Pharmacy as a Clinical Instructor! Although I am sad to be leaving UCSF and my co-residents, my new husband and I are looking forward to being reunited in the same state. I am also headed back to the warmth and sun of the desert and am excited about having a career that allows me to use the full scope of the skills I have learned in residency.



**Vivian Loo  
(Midwestern University)**

Can't believe how quickly this year flew by! It only feels like yesterday I was meeting all my corezzies for the very first time. I'm thrilled to see how much I've grown since completing pharmacy school at Midwestern

University - Glendale and finishing my PGY1 residency here at UCSF. This year has truly been a most challenging and rewarding experience and I am deeply grateful for all the preceptors, staff, and corezzies that have made this year memorable. I'm excited to continue the memory making at UCSF as I stay on for my PGY2 in oncology!



**Shawn Mazur  
(Regis University)**

It is hard to believe how much can change in a year. After graduating from Regis University School of Pharmacy in Denver, Colorado, I embarked on my journey West to UCSF Medical Center to complete my PGY-1

residency. As predicted, this residency has provided many wonderful and challenging experiences, and my expectations have been exceeded in countless areas. I have made great strides both professionally and personally, and I am extremely grateful to all of the mentors, preceptors, leadership, staff, technicians, and faculty who have helped make this possible. That being said, I could not have survived this residency without the help of my co-rezzies. I highly anticipate witnessing their impact on the practice of pharmacy in the coming years. I am excited to continue my training at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland where I will be completing a PGY-2 in Infectious Diseases. Thank you UCSF for an incredible year, and I hope our paths cross again!



**Steven Merrill  
(University of Colorado)**

It's been an exciting and challenging year as a PGY1 resident at the UCSF Medical Center. I am always surprised by how much I've learned and grown as a professional in such a short

amount of time. I grew up outside of Baltimore, Maryland and began my pharmacy career as a student at the University of Colorado, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Denver, Colorado. Coming to UCSF for my residency has brought me the rest of the way across the US and a long way from home. Thankfully my co-residents have been wonderfully warm and inviting and helped me feel at home. They've been delightful companions while exploring this beautiful city. I have to thank all the preceptors, staff, administrators and technicians who have shown me such goodwill and patience throughout the year. I am excited to finally be starting my career as a pharmacist and feel confident that my training here has prepared me well for whatever lies ahead.



**Clara Mikhaeil  
(UCSF)**

The four years I spent at UCSF for my Pharm.D. were just not enough! The decision to stay one more year for my PGY1 residency was the best decision for my career. In just one year, I have expanded my clinical

knowledge and abilities, my communication and leadership skills, and most importantly my circle of friends, colleagues, and mentors. As fast as the year has gone by, it is packed with endless memories of passionate patient care encounters and new friendships flourishing. After five years, I am now ready and well equipped to leave my UCSF home and move to the next phase of my career. This coming July, 2015, I will be starting my PGY2 in Ambulatory Care at Providence Health and Services, Portland, OR. I am sure it won't be long before I come back home for a visit.



**Krishna Shah  
(UCSF)**

It feels like yesterday that I started pharmacy school at UCSF and now I can't believe I'm finishing residency. I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to meet some of the most amazing mentors,

preceptors, staff, and colleagues throughout my five years at UCSF. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to stay on for my residency training, especially in an amazing city like San Francisco. I am constantly encouraged and motivated by the pharmacy practice at this institution, especially the emphasis on patient care and teaching. I have grown so much during this year, both professionally and personally and could not have done it without the help of

everyone, especially my family and friends. I'm very glad to have shared this journey with my co-residents and look forward to seeing what wonderful things everyone will

pursue in their respective careers. I will be staying in the Bay Area and have accepted a position as a MedSurgery Pharmacist at John Muir Medical.

## Pharmacy Specialty Residents



### **William Hung (PGY2 Informatics & Technology)**

This residency has been an enriching and fulfilling learning experience! I began this PGY2 in Informatics and Technology after completing a PGY1 at VA

San Diego and graduating pharmacy school at UCSF. Since then, I have learned much about configuration of electronic medical records and use of pharmacy-driven robotics to improve patient care. Having arrived at the end of this residency, I feel accomplished to see projects and tasks that I have worked-on come to fruition.

After this year, I will be staying on temporarily as part of UCSF's Willow team, the pharmacy-focused group that manages UCSF's electronic medical record, APeX, as part of UCSF's Clinical Systems department. I will be working on a project to help enhance our system configurations to improve patient care and workflow in our ambulatory care areas, including our various clinics. I hope to be able to stay long-term!

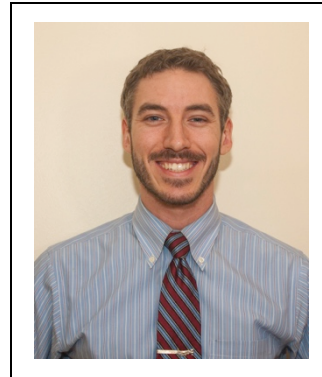


### **Linda Johnson (PGY2 Infectious Diseases)**

This past year has been an incredible journey for me. I've grown as an ID clinician in my months of training, and along the way I've met and worked with some of the most incredible people I have ever

known. I completed my PharmD training at Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University just two years ago and then completed a PGY-1 residency at Atlantic Health System in a small town in New Jersey. When the opportunity arose to move to San Francisco and continue my training to become an ID clinician, I had no hesitations. Looking back, this was one of the best decisions of my life. I am so grateful for all the opportunities that UCSF has given me and for being able to work with preceptors and mentors that have both pushed and inspired me. I have not yet finalized my plans for next year, but I'm in the process of

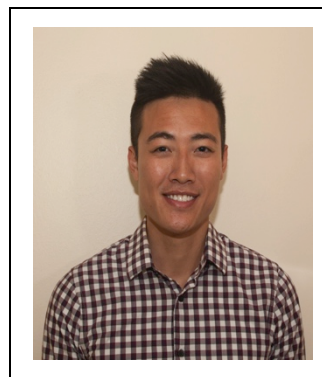
interviewing for a variety of Infectious Diseases positions around the country. Leaving UCSF will be bittersweet, but I am excited to start the next step in my career!



### **Michael Lander (PGY2 Medication-Use Safety)**

Another year has flown by, leaving behind it many fond memories. Each of my pharmacy training experiences has been unique and wonderful – from my four years at the University of Michigan to

my first-year residency in Kentucky's Appalachian region to this year at UCSF – and I feel very fortunate to have spent the past 12 months working alongside some of the most talented pharmacists I've ever met in a city I'll never forget. I extend deep thanks to my preceptors and mentors. I'll also miss my fellow residents greatly and hope our paths cross frequently as we progress through our careers. Next year, I'll be working as a clinical pharmacist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to gain valuable experience and insight into the workings of another exceptional health system; I'm very excited, but can't promise I won't think of the City by the Bay while trudging through the snow to work!



### **Hue Nguyen (PGY2 Oncology)**

How time flies! After graduating from Drake University in Iowa, I came to the Bay to complete my PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Stanford Hospital. Having developed a passion for hematology/oncology early

on, I am glad to have had the opportunity to conduct my PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency here at UCSF Medical Center. I met many amazing people throughout my experience at UCSF, and I have enjoyed the challenge of advancing my knowledge in the ever-changing world of cancer therapeutics. I am extremely grateful for the training, mentorship, and camaraderie that the people at

UCSF have provided me. Following the completion of my residency, I hope to stay in the SF Bay Area working within the realm of hematology/oncology.



**Melissa Rees  
(PGY2 Pediatrics)**

I can't believe this year is already over! I am so privileged to have worked with so many dedicated, brilliant and wonderful people; both in the pharmacy department as well as many other members of the pediatric

healthcare team. I have learned so much, and grown immeasurably over the past year. The decision to come to UCSF to complete my PGY2 was the best career choice I ever could have made. A highlight of the year was having the opportunity to watch 50 ambulances line up and transport patients from Parnassus to the Bay in a planned and coordinated effort that was an unforgettable and inspiring feat!

I started my career in pharmacy at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia and moved to "The Best Coast" to complete my PGY1 at Seattle Children's Hospital. After a short period working at a children's hospital in Texas, I decided to return to residency to push myself to become the best practitioner I could be, and to move myself towards a career in my chosen subspecialty. I am happy to report that my next stop is Phoenix, Arizona to practice at Phoenix Children's Hospital as their new Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology and BMT Team Lead. I am really going to miss all of those I have worked with here at UCSF, especially my preceptors at Benioff Children's Hospital. I am forever grateful to them for pushing me to be better and helping me to achieve the career of my dreams. I can't possibly thank you all enough!

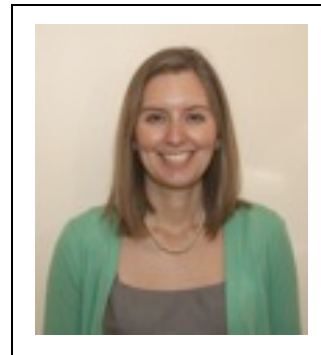


**Marisela Tan  
(PGY2 Oncology)**

It's pretty crazy how fast time flies! Six years ago, I came to UCSF inspired by its legacy of leadership and innovation. I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to train with leaders in the profession and looking back, I'm

amazed at how much I've learned and grown! My interest in oncology started in a toxicology lab at Cal where I studied compounds that would inhibit the growth of breast cancer cells in a petri dish. Since then, it's been an incredible experience learning to become a pharmacist with the clinical knowledge and critical thinking needed to

contribute to the care of patients with breast cancer and other malignancies. Working with all the oncology pharmacists, physicians, and nurses this past year has taught me how to be a more thoughtful clinician, a more creative researcher, and a more knowledgeable teacher. I am grateful to all the mentors, preceptors, faculty, and co-residents I've had opportunity to interact and collaborate with over the past few years! Thank you for being a part of my pharmacy journey! With all the active changes in health care and the continued expansion of our profession, I am excited and look forward to continuing to contribute to oncology patient care and the field of pharmacy!



**Kristine Widboom  
(PGY2 Critical Care)**

The rigorous pharmacy school and PGY-1 residency training that I received at the University of Minnesota (Go Gophers!) prepared me well for a year of PGY-2 critical care residency training at UCSF. I came to

UCSF because of its reputation for excellence and I have not been disappointed. Practitioners at UCSF are a hardworking, driven, and enthusiastic bunch with unsurpassed dedication to their patients. With the guidance of the preceptors, faculty, and staff at UCSF I have grown to become a competent pharmacist with a strong appreciation for evidence-based medicine and a commitment to patient care. The year has flown by and in my time here I've met many great people from my co-residents and preceptors to the patients, students, medical residents, nurse practitioners, and attendings that I've had the opportunity to work with. The thrill of the unknown when a Code Blue is called, the fast-paced environment, and the complexity of ICU patients have kept me on my toes this year. Through the demands and challenges of residency, everyone has been nothing but supportive and encouraging and for that I thank all of you. I'm proud of my accomplishments during this residency year and will forever remember and be inspired by the people and experiences I've had at UCSF. Thank you all for a terrific year of personal and professional development.

*Photos: Steve Batiloro*