



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant Pharmacy Residency

#### **What is the purpose of the ASHP PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant Pharmacy Residency?**

Purpose Statement: PGY2 pharmacy residency programs build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and PGY1 pharmacy residency programs to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists in specialized areas of practice. PGY2 residencies provide residents with opportunities to function independently as practitioners by conceptualizing and integrating accumulated experience and knowledge and incorporating both into the provision of patient care or other advanced practice settings. Residents who successfully complete an accredited PGY2 pharmacy residency are prepared for advanced patient care, academic, or other specialized positions, along with board certification, if available.

#### **What are the goals of residency training at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC)?**

Residents who complete the PGY2 in Solid Organ Transplant at BSLMC will possess advanced clinical competencies that qualify them for clinical pharmacist and/or faculty positions in the area of acute and ambulatory care of adult solid organ transplant patients including heart, lung, liver, and kidney transplantation. This residency is designed to focus on areas of immunosuppression, post-transplant complications, and transplant-related infectious diseases. It is a minimum of 12 months in length and is designed to build on those competencies developed by a PGY1 Residency in Pharmacy Practice.

#### **What is the history of the residency program at BSLMC?**

An ASHP-accredited residency in hospital pharmacy was first initiated at BSLMC (formerly St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and also referred to as Baylor College of Medicine Medical Center) in 1972. Full accreditation for this new post-graduate year 1 (PGY1) program at BSLMC was awarded by the ASHP Commission on Credentialing in July 1991. As of the fall of 2024, we have had 130 graduates of the PGY1 program and 6 in training. In addition, Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center has several additional pharmacy post-graduate training opportunities including:

- PGY2 Critical Care Residency (accreditation 1998): 34 graduates; 2 in training
- PGY2 Cardiology Residency (established 2007, full accreditation 2011): 17 graduates; 1 in training
- Two-year Infectious Diseases Fellowship in conjunction with the University of Houston College of Pharmacy (established 2008): 15 graduates, 2 in training
- Combined PGY1 Pharmacy and PGY2 Health System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership Residency with Masters in conjunction with the University of Houston (established 2009; full accreditation 2011): 11 graduates; 2 in training
- PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant Residency (accreditation 2013): 18 graduates; 2 in training

### **What is the structure of the PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant residency offered at BSLMC?**

The residency is a full-time 52-week program which requires a commitment of 40-48 hours per week. The residency is conducted through the accomplishment of formal learning objectives, consistent with the accreditation standards of ASHP. The program is custom tailored to each resident's background, experiences, and personal goals for the program.

The start date of the residency is early July. Earlier or later start dates may be arranged based on individual circumstances. Ample time is given off to take the licensure exam if that is an issue. PGY2 residents staff every third weekend and can expect to cover one major and one minor holiday during the year. Two weeks of paid vacation are available during the year, and are given as additional pay if not used.

### **Tell me more about “staffing experiences”.**

Staffing experiences mean that the resident will be dedicated to working as a clinical practitioner here at BSLMC - this is a critical component to the program as oftentimes, this is your first opportunity to be an independent Pharmacist. Residents complete their staffing component through every third weekend assignment. While staffing, residents will work in positions focused on patient centered services. We believe that such staffing experiences are a very important part of meeting practice residency goals and objectives and that the absence of such experiences diminishes the resident's growth and practice maturity in the program.

It is our belief that meaningful staffing experiences are absolutely necessary in the PGY2 solid organ transplant residency. We are, after all, focused on training competent practitioners who will provide pharmaceutical care to solid organ transplant patients. Staffing experiences give the resident the opportunity to function independently as a practitioner by conceptualizing and integrating accumulated experience and knowledge and transforming it into improved pharmaceutical care for patients who have received transplanted organs. The absence of such experiences diminishes the resident's growth and practice maturity in the program.

### **What is the stipend, and what benefits are included?**

The current stipend per year is \$51,300. Residents are entitled to the same benefits as clinical pharmacists. Baylor St. Luke's offers medical, dental, vision insurance benefits, with many options available to fit the individual or family situation.

BSLMC allocates “benefit dollars” to employees, who then can spend them on the benefits of their choice. The allocation covers the needs of the individual employee, with payroll deduction for increased individual coverage or family/dependent plans. Parking is provided for free at a remote lot with access to Metro Transit (Metrorail) and free, air-conditioned shuttle service at all hours.

Funded meetings are the American Transplant Congress. Presentations of projects are required to be given at each meeting attended.

The resident has dedicated desk space with access to a personal computer with all contemporary software and printing. Full internet access is provided, with e-mail services.

### **What other opportunities are associated with BSLMC and Houston?**

A major advantage in taking the residency program at St. Luke's is its location in the Texas Medical Center (TMC). The TMC is the largest medical center in the world, and is more than twice as large as the second largest medical center. It occupies over 500 acres, including twelve major hospitals representing over five thousand beds, and has a large central medical complex. It is home to nine academic institutions including two colleges of medicine, two colleges of pharmacy, several colleges of nursing, dentistry, and other medical disciplines. TMC is adjacent to the Rice University campus and the Hermann Park/Museum complex of the City of Houston. St. Luke's itself is home to the world renowned Texas Heart Institute®. The first human heart transplant in the United States was performed here; more open heart surgical procedures have been performed here than anywhere else in the world, and St. Luke's has the largest cardiac catheterization facility in the world.

Houston is the fourth largest city in the nation and has an abundance of recreational opportunities. Immediately to the south of the Medical Center is the large Reliant Park complex, featuring Reliant Stadium and the Astrodome Stadium. Evenings out can include events such as the Houston Astros, Texans, Rockets or Dynamo games. The beaches and attractions of Galveston Island are less than an hour away. Other activities include multicultural activities such as opera, the ballet, symphony or musicals. In addition, there are many places to eat and try new foods.

### **What about the Department of Pharmacy?**

The Department of Pharmacy at St. Luke's consists of approximately 150 staff members, of which nearly 80 are pharmacists. All contemporary services are provided. We emphasize being a "pharmacist-centered pharmacy in a patient-centered hospital." Our distribution model uses unit based automation with decentralized clinical pharmacy services. We have automated carousels and automated repackaging in Central Pharmacy. Pharmacy Services are available 24/7 in Central Pharmacy.

The hospital itself has 850 available beds, of which 164 are intensive care. It has forty-four operating rooms and ten cardiac catheterization labs.

### **What are the residency requirements?**

The following table outlines the residents' requirements to complete the program. Other requirements include staffing, code blue participation, on call responsibility along with other rotation requirements.

**Requirements for the Completion of the PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant Residency Program**

Requirements	Completed
Permanent pharmacist licensure in Texas within 30 days for PGY2 residents	
Sterile Products Compounding Certificate as required by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy	
Vancomycin Consult Validation	
Warfarin Consult Validation	
Seminar Presentation	
Case Conference Presentation	
Journal Club Presentation	
Successful completion of all learning experiences, including required rotations, elective rotations, and longitudinal rotations	
ACHR of at least 80% of required objectives	
Resident must not have any objectives with the status of "Needs Improvement" (NI) by the end of the residency year	
Completion of service commitment for PGY1 and PGY2 residents (requires 16 hours of staffing every third weekend at BSLMC Department of Pharmacy)	
Completion of all assigned PharmAcademic™ evaluations for each learning experience	
Completed residency portfolio that documents all of the above activities/experiences/feedback throughout the program year	
Completion of the Solid Organ Transplant Appendix (Topics List)	
Completion of the Major Project, including a final manuscript suitable for publication	
Completion of the Best Practice Improvement Project, including final Executive Summary	
Treatment Protocol, Policy, or Order Set	

I attest that resident \_\_\_\_\_ has successfully completed the above requirements of their residency/fellowship program:

Resident \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Program Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **What is desired in an applicant for the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center residency?**

We are looking for mature individuals who have made a career decision to become a leader in health-system or institutional pharmacy. The candidate must be prepared to make a serious commitment to satisfactorily complete all requirements of the program, as planned in advance. This commitment includes attendance at required meetings, programs, presentations and trips, and the availability and willingness to participate in any function of the Department of Pharmacy on a 24-hour basis. The residency is tailored to each individual, and regular evaluations of accomplishment must be satisfactory. This is a mature program for mature individuals who are serious about the profession as a lifelong career, and solid organ transplant as a specialty practice. Applicants should hold the PharmD degree and complete and ASHP-Accredited PGY1 Residency in Pharmacy Practice prior to starting the Specialty Residency. Texas licensure is required as well.

### **How does one apply and what about interviews?**

You will need to apply to our residency program online through the ASHP PhORCAS program ([www.ashp.org/phorcass](http://www.ashp.org/phorcass)). Application documents required are a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, college transcripts (if less than five years post-graduation), and three letters of professional reference. The application deadline is **January 6 11:59 PM**.

An on-site interview is considered very important and is required for a complete application (unless we determine otherwise due to national conditions such as a pandemic). All applications will be screened by our Residency Advisory Council, and all applicants chosen for interview will be contacted by the end of January. The on-site or virtual interview is a half day, and may include a fifteen minute presentation on a disease state management topic of your choice to a group of pharmacists if onsite. You will interview with Clinical Pharmacist IIs and Pharmacy Management. The last date for interviews is normally one week before the ASHP match list submission date. Financial assistance for the on-site interview is not available, but we will work with you in any way we can to reduce expenses.

### **More information and questions please contact:**

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