

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Pharmacy Residency Preceptors



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Pharmacy Administration/Residency Leadership

Elizabeth Stone, PharmD

Current Position: Chief of Pharmacy

Hometown: Lansing, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois at Chicago

Residency: Jesse Brown VA Medical Center- PGY-1 and PGY-2 in Administration

Rotation(s) precepted: Administration

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

To advance clinical practice along with integration of high quality and safety for our Veterans. To be able to apply patient care at a more global level.

Clinical areas of interest: Medication Safety, Optimizing workflow, expansion of clinical services, quality assurance, and medication reconciliation

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

Travel, spend time with family and friends, read, try new restaurants

Atit Patel, PharmD, MHA, BCPS

Current Position: Associate Chief of Pharmacy, Ambulatory Care

Hometown: Pensacola, Florida

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Florida (Go Gators!)

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois at Chicago

Residency: PGY-1, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center; PGY-2 Pharmacy Administration, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

Rotation(s) precepted: Administration and Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I absolutely love serving our Veterans. It is a great way to serve those who have served our Country.

Clinical areas of interest: Medication Safety, Pharmacy Leadership, and Diabetes

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Traveling, listening to music, working on home improvement projects, and hanging out with family

Joelle Farano, PharmD, MBA, BCPS

Current Position: Associate Chief of Pharmacy, Acute Care Clinical

Hometown: Darien, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Raabe College of Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University

College of Pharmacy: Raabe College of Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University

Residency: PGY1/PGY2/MBA at University of Chicago

Rotation(s) precepted: Inpatient Pharmacy Staffing, Hospital Practice, Inpatient Pharmacy Operations Management

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

Serving veterans, outstanding leadership team, opportunity to lead change

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors):

Medication Safety, high reliability, pharmacy informatics/pharmacy automation

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

Visiting national parks, spending time with my dog (Coco!), aerial fitness/dance

Hardeep Bhogal, PharmD

Current Position: Outpatient Pharmacy Supervisor

Hometown: London, UK.; Carol Stream, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Loyola University- Chicago

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Rotation(s) precepted: Outpatient Pharmacy Staffing

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

The opportunity to improve my abilities leading a larger team, new experiences, and learning new operational skills brought me to Hines.

The ability to work directly with the team and my enjoyment with co-workers has kept me at Hines.

Clinical areas of interest:

I enjoy the operational aspect of pharmacy.

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy running, working out, dining out, and classic cars (I still have my 1969 Chevy Camaro I bought in pharmacy school)

Kourtney Fermanich PharmD, BCSCP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor, Acute Care

Hometown: Armstrong, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Danville Area Community College

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy

Rotation(s) precepted: Administrative

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? –I started my pharmacist journey in 2017 as a hospital pharmacist at a local hospital. I transitioned to covering adult intensive care and then rotated through pediatric and neonatal intensive care prior to becoming inpatient pharmacy supervisor in 2018. What brought me to Hines was the chance to work for a selfless patient population and the ability to supervise pharmacy practitioners at an advanced level. What keeps me at Hines is I enjoy how Hines (especially the pharmacy department) promotes a culture of positivity and fosters innovation to put the nation's veterans first as well as providing resources and support for professional development.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Informatics, quality management, sterile compounding, anything acute care related.

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I have 2 blue heelers and we like to go for walks or exploring. Cleaning and organizing is relaxing to me so that's what I'm usually doing or hanging out with family.

Dayna Mitchell, Pharm.D., BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Formulary Management

Hometown: Danforth, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy

Residency: Lakeside Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Chicago, IL

Rotation(s) precepted: Clinical and Formulary Management

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? While I joined Hines for a Drug Information position right out of my residency, I stayed because of my talented, compassionate colleagues.

Clinical areas of interest: Medication Safety, Medical Informatics, Pharmacoeconomics

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Traveling to national parks, Michigan, and Disneyworld; practicing yoga; following Planet Money, Happier with Gretchen Rubin, and Hidden Brain with Shankar Vedantam podcasts.

Nick Burge, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: PGY-1 Residency Program Director

Hometown: Lake Zurich, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Illinois Wesleyan University

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois at Chicago

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Administration, Nephrology, Elective Ambulatory Care, Seminar

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Seeing all that a pharmacist could do for patient care as a student rotating in the ambulatory care clinic initially brought me to Hines and attracted me to the residency. Over the years, I've stayed at Hines because of the level of clinical involvement pharmacists are afforded within the VA, the positive provider-patient relationships with the patients we care for, and the colleagues who I have worked with.

Clinical areas of interest: Nephrology/End-Stage Renal Disease; Transitions of Care; Medication Adherence

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I enjoy training and competing in triathlons, exploring the Chicago dining scene, and (pre-COVID) traveling with my wife and kids.

Ursula C. Patel, Pharm.D., BCPS, AAHIVP

Current Position: Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacy Specialist; PGY2 Infectious Diseases Residency Program Director

Hometown: Arlington Heights, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)

Residency: PGY1 Pharmacy Practice completed at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Infectious Diseases

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The veteran patient population, the people I work with on a daily basis and opportunities in Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Stewardship at the VA

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Infectious Diseases, Antimicrobial Stewardship, Research, Teaching

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spend time with family and friends, travel, try new restaurants, binge-watch Netflix

Frank J. Svete, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Nephrology/ PGY1 Residency Program Coordinator

Hometown: Waukegan, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: University of California San Francisco

Rotation(s) precepted: Nephrology; Elective Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

Practicing as an independent practitioner while working with multidisciplinary medical teams in a collaboration for the veteran population.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors):

Nephrology, Pain Management, Primary Care

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

Coaching and playing ice hockey, exercising, watching sports

Manali Szynekarek, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Pharmacoeconomics Program Manager

Hometown: Streamwood, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy

Residency: PGY1 and PGY2 at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Pharmacoeconomics

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I did a rotation at Hines VA as a student in anticoagulation. I enjoyed working with the patients and preceptors here.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): pharmacoeconomics and formulary management

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spend time with my husband and son. Read books (mostly romantic comedies). Eat pizza.

Ambulatory Care

Danielle Alsip, PharmD, CDE, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Primary Care

Hometown: Joliet, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Lewis University

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Residency: Hines VA

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care and Advanced Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I choose Hines for my residency program because of the diversity in the program. I had a background in inpatient pharmacy but was pretty sure my passion was ambulatory care. I wanted the opportunity to explore that. I was lucky enough to be able to come back 2 years after my residency to get my dream job as an ambulatory care pharmacist.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Ambulatory Care w/a diabetes focus

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Outside of pharmacy I enjoy watching my daughter play softball. As a family we like to go ziplining, try out different escape rooms and take tropical vacations. I also enjoy spending time w/my neighbors/friends w/regular meals out and driveway hangouts.

Julie Cabrera, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Primary Care

Hometown: South Holland, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Columbia College Chicago

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care, Elective Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Managing chronic disease states, being able to develop long-term relationships with my patients that make a real impact on their care, working with veterans

Clinical areas of interest: as above

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Family vacations, spending time with my kids, anything active and outdoors, golf, going to the beach, bike rides, photography/film (undergrad major), watching football

Tiffany Chaddick-Dyas, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Anticoagulation Program Manager/Outpatient Anticoagulation and Home Based Primary Care

Hometown: Addison, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: North Central, College of DuPage

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Outpatient Anticoagulation

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The autonomy clinical Pharmacy specialists have

Clinical areas of interest: Anticoagulation and Geriatrics

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I have 2 young children, I don't have free time 😊

Melissa Dinh, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Anticoagulation

Hometown: Lake in the Hills, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois College of Pharmacy

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Outpatient Anticoagulation

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

Being able to work with a high level of autonomy, helping a unique patient population, and having such supportive colleagues

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors):

Anticoagulation, Chronic disease state management

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

Travel and experience different cultures/foods, bake "healthy" desserts, spend time with family, and indulge in Netflix and TV shows including '90 Day Fiancé'

Laura Esposito, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Purdue University

College of Pharmacy: Purdue University

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care and Elective Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

Initially diverse opportunities within the residency program, autonomy pharmacists have to provide direct patient care, the ability to work as a core member of a multidisciplinary team, the opportunity to work with the veteran population

Clinical areas of interest: Women's Health, Women's Mental Health, Ambulatory Care

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spending time with my family and friends, running/exercise, reading, travel and watching the Chicago Bears

Sherry Hoang, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Ambulatory Care

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Residency: Northshore University HealthSystem

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Autonomy to provide direct patient care and collaboration with a multidisciplinary team

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Ambulatory Care

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Reading, fitness classes, healthy eating, cooking/dining, travel, spending time with family and friends

Jennifer Javier, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Anticoagulation

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: Jesse Brown VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Outpatient Anticoagulation

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? When I first came to Hines, my primary interest was ambulatory care. I have worked in the Anticoagulation and Primary Care clinics.

Clinical areas of interest: Anticoagulation and chronic disease state management

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Run/exercise, try new recipes, work on my interior design skills, watch HGTV or Food Network

Eunha Lai, Pharm.D.

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Anticoagulation

Hometown: Northbrook, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Rotation(s) precepted: Outpatient anticoagulation

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

Autonomy to provide direct patient care.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors):

Anticoagulation

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

Cooking/dining, traveling with family, watching movies/plays/musicals and playing games with family/friends.

Jennifer Mauldin, PharmD

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care

Hometown: Bartlett, Illinois

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Marquette University

College of Pharmacy: Palm Beach Atlantic University

Residency: James A Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, FL

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care, Elective Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Love working as a PACT CPS in the VA, recently transferred to Hines VA to be closer to family

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Diabetes, Neurology

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Hiking, reading, cooking, traveling

Jennifer Mucksavage, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at Oak Lawn

Hometown: Wausau, WI

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of WI, Madison

College of Pharmacy: University of WI, Madison (BS Pharmacy); University of Cincinnati (PharmD)

Residency: University of Illinois at Chicago

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Passion for the ability to have a direct impact on patient care in the ambulatory care setting

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Medication reconciliation and chronic disease state management

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spend time with my family and friends, read, bake, coach youth sports, exercise and spend time outdoors hiking & biking or walking

Christopher Olson, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Outpatient Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Mental Health

Hometown: Barrington, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Illinois State University

College of Pharmacy: University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Residency: PGY1 – Jesse Brown VAMC (Chicago, IL); PGY2 Mental Health – Jesse Brown VAMC

Rotation(s) precepted: Mental Health

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I was excited for the opportunity to join the pharmacy team at Hines to help build up the services pharmacy can provide within the mental health service line. I have appreciated the collaborative nature and support from the pharmacy team and leadership in both pharmacy and mental health.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Psychosis, PTSD, and addictions treatment

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spend time with my family, play with my dog, watch sports, play golf, and follow the stock market

Michele Parham, Pharm.D., BCACP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Ambulatory Care

Hometown: Joliet, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois- Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: Midwestern University

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care, Elective Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I love working with a multidisciplinary healthcare team. I also enjoy the unique patient population we serve at the VA. I have built some really great relationships with both my fellow coworkers and my patients.

Clinical areas of interest: chronic care, specifically diabetes

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I am a family person. I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I enjoy a good meal, but I hate to cook. There is nothing better than a nice meal prepared by someone else and a good glass of wine.

Gopi Patel, PharmD

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Anticoagulation Management

Hometown: Des Plaines, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Benedictine University

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Outpatient Anticoagulation Clinic

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I was very impressed with the variety of ambulatory care services that were offered through Hines.

Clinical areas of interest: Anticoagulation management in complex patients

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I enjoy spending time with my dog Jacques. He's a tiny Maltese with a big personality!

Katherine (Kate) Petkewicz PharmD, CDCES

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Primary Care Hoffman Estates CBOC

Hometown: Glenwood IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Purdue Calumet, Prairie State

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Residency: Pharmacy Practice Residency Midwestern University and Superval Focus in Patient Care and Teaching

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care and Elective Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The ability to work in a setting that embraces pharmacy practice at the highest level as well as a position that allows me to serve as an educator brought me to Hines. A position that challenges me to continuously grow as a provider and increase my knowledge base keeps me at Hines

Clinical areas of interest: Diabetes, CHF, COPD, and transitions of care

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I spend much of my time caring for 2 young children and husband. We enjoy family game nights frequently and like to travel. One of my favorite activities is working out while watching food-network shows. I have a passion for cooking and gather ideas for new recipes when I work out.

Christina Quillian, B.S. Pharm., PharmD, BCPS, FASHP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Ambulatory Care

Hometown: New Orleans, La

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Louisiana at Monroe

College of Pharmacy: University of Louisiana at Monroe (B.S Pharmacy); University of Illinois at Chicago (PharmD)

Residency: University of Illinois

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care, Elective Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Collaboration and teamwork as part of the Primary Care team; clinical pharmacy scope of practice; precepting advanced pharmacy practice education students and Hines VA residents

Clinical areas of interest: General Medicine (diabetes, hypertension, lipid management, cardiology)

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Long distance running, triathlons, travel, bookclub reading

Margi Shah, Pharm.D., BCACP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Primary Care/Hepatology-GI

Hometown: Chicago western suburbs

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Wayne State University

College of Pharmacy: Wayne State University

Residency: PGY1 – Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System; PGY2 Ambulatory Care – John D. Dingell VA Medical Center

Rotation(s) precepted: PGY1 Ambulatory Care/Specialty Ambulatory Care; PGY2 Liver/Hepatitis

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Expanding CPS role in liver beyond treatment of HCV, mentoring and training learners, and living close to Chicago

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): gout, system process improvement, impact of specialty care on primary care conditions, transitions of care, applied pharmacoeconomics, post-transplant diabetes management

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Reading, spending time with family and friends, and exploring local areas

Larry Shively, RPh

Current Position: Hines VA Clinical Pharmacist, Anticoagulation

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Missouri – Kansas City

College of Pharmacy: University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Pharmacy

Rotation(s) precepted: PGY1 Anticoagulation

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Working for the VA/good patient care

Clinical areas of interest: Anticoagulation

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Exercise, cook, genealogy

Alexandra Shubat, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Anticoagulation

Hometown: Riverside, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: The University of Iowa

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: ambulatory care, Anticoagulation

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The autonomy to care for patients, the collaboration with other healthcare providers

Clinical areas of interest: anticoagulation/ambulatory care

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Reading, watching Netflix, spending time with my husband and son

Jiji Thomas, PharmD, BCACP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Hybrid Ambulatory Care

Hometown: Elmhurst, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Drake University, Des Moines, IA

College of Pharmacy: Drake University, Des Moines, IA

Residency: Borgess Medical Center, Kalamazoo, MI

Rotation(s) precepted: Ambulatory Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I enjoy having the autonomy within my scope of practice to serve the health care needs of veterans. The strong collaboration of the multidisciplinary team approach in providing care within the VA is why I choose to continue to work within the VA.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Diabetes, anticoagulation

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Baking, arts and craft projects, binge watching tv shows on Netflix.

Inpatient/Acute Care

Kaitlyn Acosta, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Emergency Department Pharmacy Program Manager

Hometown: Orland Park, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital (PGY1 and PGY2 – Infectious Diseases)

Rotation(s) precepted: Emergency Department

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The variety of rotations offered at Hines (strong ambulatory care focus, teaching/education focus, and acute care experiences), as well as a passion for geriatrics and improving medication use in this population.

Clinical areas of interest: Infectious diseases, cardiovascular emergencies, and opioid safety.

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I love going to concerts with my husband and traveling to see our favorite bands, cheering on Chicago sports teams (especially the Cubs, Blackhawks, and Bears), listening to health and fitness podcasts, and playing with my two cats.

Mara Andersen, Pharm.D.

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Anticoagulation

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois at Chicago

Residency: Portland VA Medical Center

Rotation(s) precepted: Inpatient Anticoagulation

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The multidisciplinary approach to patient care.

Clinical areas of interest: Anticoagulation

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Yoga, spending time with family and friends.

Raymond Byrne, PharmD

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist- Critical care and Nutrition support

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Illinois Benedictine

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Rotation(s) precepted: Critical care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

I started here when I was in pharmacy school as a technician. I could see there were many opportunities in pharmacy and the VA.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors):

Critical care, antibiotic dosing, nutrition support, outpatient antimicrobial therapy

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

Astronomy, Kayaking, Fishing

Alex Gregorowicz, PharmD, MBA, BCCCP

Current Position: Cardiac/Medical ICU Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Hometown: Louisville, KY

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Kentucky

College of Pharmacy: University of Kentucky

Residency: PGY1 and Critical Care PGY2: University of Chicago Medicine

Rotation(s) precepted: PGY1 and PGY2 MICU

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The intense focus on improving the lives of our veterans has been my favorite part of working at Hines. Working with this patient population also opens up unique research options, which I hope to explore here soon.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Antibiotic stewardship, ICU to floor transitions of care, ICU care improvement (i.e. analgesia/sedation protocols), education

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I am an avid sports fan (Go Bears) and concert enthusiast. I have 2 year old German shepherd mix that keeps me plenty busy in my free time and I recently took up archery.

Amanda Kozlowski, PharmD.

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Inpatient Anticoagulation

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Loyola University Chicago

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Residency: Amita Health Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I love having the opportunity to keep those that have served our country healthy and well; I love being able to talk to veterans and counsel and answer their questions pertaining to anticoagulation and general medicine

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Anticoagulation and general medicine

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Going on walks with my husband, 1-year-old son, Remi, and 2-year-old dog, Apollo

Khaja Maghrabi PharmD, BCSP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Oncology

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: UIC

College of Pharmacy: Ferris State University

Rotation(s) precepted: Hematology/Oncology

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Getting to work with the veterans! They've all had such interesting experiences while serving in the military. I've learned as much from them as they have from me. Also working at Hines, has given me the opportunity to develop and grow professionally as a pharmacist.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Hematology/Oncology, ID and Critical Care

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spend as much time as possible with wife, kids, other family and friends. Take in as much NFL as possible, yes it's rough being a Bears fan.

Jayme Magrady, Pharm.D.

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Inpatient Anticoagulation

Hometown: Sunrise, FL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Florida

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University CCP

Residency: Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Inpatient/Outpatient Anticoagulation

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Inpatient setting/Co-workers

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Anticoagulation, internal medicine

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spend time w/ my husband and son, enjoy the outside, Florida Gators Football

Nikunj Patel, PharmD, BCGP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Emergency Department

Hometown: Gujarat, India; Mount Prospect, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois, Chicago

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Rotation(s) precepted: Emergency Department

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? As far as I know, VA is one of the rare organization that combines the following: prime focus on superior patient care where organizational financial/revenue related conflicts never supersede excellent patient care, VA provides all the resources that a clinician may need in order to deliver the best patient care experience, VA offers comprehensive care for patients – acute care, chronic care, mental health, rehabilitation, specialty care -ophthalmology, dermatology etc. Serving in an organization where care truly is holistic and not fragmented.

Clinical areas of interest: Emergency medicine, critical care, infectious diseases, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacogenomics

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

Spend time with family and friends, study and discuss history (and the lessons to learn from it) and spirituality with friends, explore nature

Prachi Patel, PharmD, BCPS, BCOP

Current Position: Oncology Program Manager

Hometown: Darien, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: Froedtert Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Hematology/Oncology

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Working with the veteran patient population, the high level of interdisciplinary collaboration (one of our current initiatives is the development of an oral chemo clinic), opportunity for VISN-level initiatives (co-chair of the VISN 12 Oncology CPS Workgroup)

Clinical areas of interest: Optimizing the delivery of oral antineoplastics, developing oncologic supportive care protocols

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Baking, Hiking, Running along the lakefront with my dog Penny, Discovering/exploring new coffee shops, (Re)learning how to play the guitar

Anne Thorndyke, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Solid Organ Transplant

Hometown: Edina, MN

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Butler University (Indianapolis, IN)

College of Pharmacy: Butler University (Indianapolis, IN)

Residency: PGY1 Indiana University Health (Indianapolis IN) /PGY2 Barnes-Jewish Hospital (Saint Louis MO)

Rotation(s) precepted: PGY1 Solid Organ Transplant / PGY2 Hepatology and Transplant

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I was drawn toward Hines for the opportunity to help start a new transplant program for veterans in the Chicagoland area. The transplant pharmacist has this unique involvement during all phases of the patient's transplant journey; therefore, there are various practice areas that a transplant pharmacist covers. From immunology, critical care, internal medicine, ambulatory care, infectious diseases, geriatrics, and pregnancy – there is a topic for every learner. The veteran patient population, the pharmacy department, and my interdisciplinary transplant team have made this institution home.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Transitions of care, ambulatory care, ID stewardship, critical care

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? When I am not at the hospital, I can be found spending time with family, friends, and my puppy exploring new places in the city of Chicago. From walking through Lincoln park, exploring the different neighborhoods, and trying new food places - there are so many fun things to do in the city. I also enjoy book club, traveling (safely post-pandemic), sculpt yoga, and have recently been converted to indoor cycling.

Jeffrey T. Wieczorkiewicz, Pharm.D., BCPS

Current Position: Associate Professor – Department of Pharmacy Practice

Midwestern University – Chicago College of Pharmacy

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Adult Internal Medicine

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University – Chicago College of Pharmacy

Residency: Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: General Medicine (required), Advanced General Medicine (elective)

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? My interest in Hines was in developing an internal medicine service while being involved in clinical research. I have been able to establish a valued clinical service and have completed research projects. I enjoy precepting and mentoring residents and guiding residents through completing residency projects.

Clinical areas of interest: My clinical areas of interest include infectious diseases, cardiology and hepatology.

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? My free time is filled with my family. I enjoy watching or participating in my kiddos activities. Family time with my wife and kids is the best way to spend whatever free time I have.

Marco Zambrano, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Pharmacy OR & Surgical Program Manager

Hometown: Chicago

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Rotation(s) precepted: Hospital Pharmacy

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I transferred from Jesse Brown VA where I worked in several roles both staffing and clinical for inpatient pharmacy but wanted a new challenge. When I heard of an opportunity at Hines to be a supervisor it was a challenge that I had wanted for myself. During my tour as inpatient supervisor we were able to expand our staff and clinical opportunities for inpatient pharmacy. Recently, I accepted my current role which I am excited to have a stronger pharmacy presence in the OR and surgical units.

Clinical areas of interest: surgery and OR, critical care, emergency medicine

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Boxing, Baseball, Cooking/Dining, Architecture tours & exploring neighborhoods

Geriatrics

Kevin Bacigalupo, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Geriatrics

Hometown: Hinsdale, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: PGY1 at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Geriatrics – Long Term Care, Geriatrics elective – Hospice and Palliative Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines?

Opportunities for clinical pharmacists to practice at the top of our license, Medical team acceptance and integration of clinical pharmacists as core team members, Outstanding team dynamics both within our pharmacy group and between disciplines

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors):

Geriatrics, Long term care, hospice/palliative care, pain management

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time?

Golf, spend time with family and try to keep up with my triplets, watch mind numbing TV (Bachorette, Survivor, anything on Bravo)

Emily Ellsworth, PharmD, BCGP

Rotation(s) precepted: Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC)

Hometown: Caledonia, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: N/A

College of Pharmacy: Butler University

Residency: PGY1: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, PGY2 Geriatrics: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)

Current Position: Rural Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Being a former resident, I knew the high level of clinical skill and expectations of the geriatrics department at Hines. I also am grateful to be very involved with training residents and students. It is nice to have four of my previous co-residents at Hines as well!

Clinical areas of interest: Geriatric ambulatory care, palliative/hospice care, dermatology, and academia.

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Binge watching Netflix documentaries, swimming, and anything Taylor Swift.

Liancy Gomez Martinez, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics/Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

Hometown: Yauco, PR (land of coffee)

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus

College of Pharmacy: University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus; Midwestern University, Chicago College of Pharmacy

Rotation(s) precepted: HBPC

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Pharmacist roles in different settings, potential for professional growth and development, mentorship structure.

Clinical areas of interest (i.e. transitions of care, geriatrics, medication errors): Geriatrics, CKD, DM, transitions of care, deprescribing, medication safety.

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spending time with my husband and son, traveling, home improvement projects, arts and crafts, cooking.

Annette Kossifologos, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics (Long-Term Care)

Hometown: Elmwood Park, Illinois

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Triton Community College

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Geriatrics (Long-Term Care)

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The breadth of clinical opportunities for pharmacists, geriatrics and the computerized record system originally brought me to Hines. I've stayed because of the opportunities for clinical growth and the supportive environment with my pharmacy peers.

Clinical areas of interest: Geriatrics, medication reconciliation

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Travel, photography and butterfly rearing/gardening.

Tripti Kurup, Pharm.D., BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Home Based Primary Care

Hometown: Northlake, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Loyola University Chicago

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Home Based Primary Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Serving the veteran population, more opportunities as a clinical pharmacist

Clinical areas of interest: geriatrics, chronic disease state management, transitions in care

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? My free time is spent with my family and kids. We're a competitive group and enjoy playing video and board games, soccer, basketball, and a no mercy match of kickball.

Kavita R. Palla, PharmD, BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Geriatrics

Hometown: Woodridge, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Daley College

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: University of Illinois

Rotation(s) precepted: Geriatrics

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? I completed a PGY2 residency in Geriatrics. VA has always recognized clinical pharmacist contributions towards patient care. There was a position open involving acute geriatric medicine and home-based primary care at Hines. My love of Geriatrics brought me to Hines and kept me at Hines VA Hospital

Clinical areas of interest: Geriatrics, Dementia

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spend time with family and read

Bhairvi Patel, PharmD, BCPS BCGP

Current Position: Long Term Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Hometown: Schaumburg; Albuquerque

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Residency: North Chicago VA (currently known as Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center FHCC)

Rotation(s) precepted: Geriatrics – Long Term Care

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Opportunities in Geriatrics

Clinical areas of interest: Geriatrics

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spending time outdoors, Disability Advocacy, gardening, clean living

Jennifer Stoiner, Pharm.D., BCPS

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

Hometown: Midlothian, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: Saint Xavier University

College of Pharmacy: Midwestern University

Residency: Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Rotation(s) precepted: Geriatrics/HBPC

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? Geriatrics, Mental Health

Clinical areas of interest: Geriatrics

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? I have 2 toddlers, I don't have free time.

Priya Wirth, PharmD, BCGP

Current Position: Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Geriatrics (Long-Term Care)

Hometown: Freeport, IL

Pre-Pharmacy School(s) attended: University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

College of Pharmacy: University of Illinois

Residency: Jesse Brown VA - Chicago, IL

Rotation(s) precepted: Geriatrics (Long-Term Care)

What interests brought you to Hines/have kept you at Hines? The degree of autonomy and wide variety of practice areas where pharmacists can have an impact at the VA were very impressive to me as a student on rotation. The

supportive relationships I have with my colleagues in pharmacy, the ability to work closely with other disciplines, and the opportunity to serve the veteran population has kept me at Hines VA.

Clinical areas of interest: Geriatrics, medication safety, medication reconciliation

Outside of pharmacy, what do you like to do in your free time? Spending time with my husband and kids, traveling, escape rooms, cooking