

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 elective clerkship 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 *Lori Hall, Pharm D, RPh Christopher Allen, MPH, RPh Cindy Dougherty, PharmD., RPh Julian Jolly, PharmD, RPh</p>	<p>The CDC Drug Service procures, maintains, and distributes 12 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
<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) - Epidemiology Branch *Paul Weidle, PharmD, MPH Vasavi Thomas, RPh, MPH</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 branch is responsible for much of CDC's domestic and international HIV epidemiologic research agenda. Its mission is to conduct biomedical and behavioral epidemiologic research to reduce HIV infection and disease progression. Its projects include microbicide and antiretroviral prophylaxis, African-American and Hispanic research initiatives, vaccine research, mother-child transmission, and testing guidelines. The branch is composed of over 100 full-time scientists and support staff, many of whom are based in Atlanta, with international field staff currently stationed in Thailand; Uganda; Botswana; and, Kenya. In addition branch staff have worked in Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.</p>
<p>Division Of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) - Office of the Director *Donna Hubbard McCree, PhD, MPH, RPh</p>	<p>Students selected for this rotation will work under the direction of Dr. McCree, who recently accepted a position as the Associate Director for Health Equity (effective 09/26/2010). This office is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the Division's efforts to reduce health disparities among populations disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS.</p>

[Division of Bacterial Diseases](#)
[- Respiratory Diseases Branch- Get Smart Campaign](#)

Lauri Hicks, DO
*Darcia Johnson, BA
Rebecca Roberts, MS

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:

- 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

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.

*designates primary preceptor

INFORMATION FOR THE STUDENT

How to Apply

Rotations are offered only to students in their last year of pharmacy school. Students are encouraged 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, keeping in mind that flexible rotation slots will expand placement opportunities.**
- 3. Rank order of top three preferred rotation sites.**

INFORMATION FOR THE SCHOOL'S EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAM

How to submit the application

Applications are to be submitted electronically by each school's experiential coordinator to pharmacists@cdc.gov with "Application for _____ (student's name)" in the subject line. ***New guideline: please limit the number of applications to no more than 5 per school of pharmacy.***

The deadline for all applications is January 1st (of the year prior to the student's graduation year).

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.**

A list of CDC employees who provide housing to CDC fellows, students, international visitors, etc. is available upon request. Transportation to/from the rotation site is also the student's responsibility. A parking sticker will be issued the first week of the rotation that is to be affixed to the student's personal vehicle. Trips to other CDC campuses may be necessary throughout the course of the rotation. (Although a car is not required, it will make travel around the city of Atlanta much easier.) [MARTA](#), or Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, serves the Atlanta area 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 this requirement **

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.