

Preceptor Newsletter

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Preceptor Spotlight: Arun Mattappallil, PharmD

Dr. Mattappallil is an infectious diseases (ID) pharmacist at University Hospital in Newark, NJ. He received his doctorate of pharmacy from St. John's University. He completed a PGY-1 general pharmacy practice and PGY-2 infectious disease pharmacy residency at the Western New York Veterans Affairs Healthcare System.

example, some of the more interesting cases we've seen recently are cases of extensively drug-resistant E. coli and disseminated leishmaniasis.



Why did you choose a career in pharmacy?

It gives me the opportunity to work as a part of a team of healthcare professionals. This applies to the outstanding physicians and professionals of the infectious diseases consult team, as well as the pharmacy team!

Why did you choose ID as your specialty?

I did not intend to go into ID when I started my PGY-1 residency, but after three days on my ID rotation I changed my mind. Seeing the impact of the ID pharmacist shaped my decision. I enjoy looking at patients holistically and that's what ID entails.

Describe an average day for you:

Busy! You never know what consults the ID team might be called on, especially with the populations seen at University Hospital. Typically, the day entails reviewing patients, following up with practitioners, and participating in daily rounds with the ID consult team.

Could you elaborate on the patient populations you see?

The population that we see in Newark and at University Hospital is very diverse, as it is an urban area and a level 1 trauma center. I get to see a wide variety of patients and conditions as a part of the ID consult team. We see many interesting cases including multidrug resistant organisms and tropical diseases. For

Describe your favorite part of precepting:

Definitely the students; I love that I can shape a student's learning experience and that I am able to leave an impression on them that will last as they become a practicing pharmacist.

Any lessons learned through precepting?

The most valuable lesson I have learned is to be patient with students. You never know where a student is in the learning process and you have to be able to meet them where they are to help them gain the knowledge and skills they need.

If you could invent any drug what would it be?

I would invent more vaccines! Vaccines that could prevent and cure diseases that we commonly see. This would help keep our patients healthy and make my job a little easier.

Hita Bhagat, PharmDCandidate 2019
Jackie Johnston, PharmD, BCPS

ACCP Interprofessional Clinic Initiative

As the only organization with a main focus on clinical pharmacy at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, our ACCP student chapter provides meaningful exposure to interprofessional healthcare settings for P2 and P3 students before they embark on their APPE rotations. We have partnered with three clinics in New Jersey for our Interprofessional Clinic Initiative. Two of the clinics, the Promise Clinic and the Newark Clinic, are student-run ambulatory-care facilities located in medical school campuses where our pharmacy students practice alongside medical, dentistry, nursing and other healthcare professional students to provide comprehensive patient care. The other clinic, called the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, is located at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. This program allows pharmacy students to volunteer and assist in a Transitions of Care clinic under the supervision of a clinical pharmacist as well as collaborate with various health professionals such as advanced practice nurses (APNs) and social workers. All three clinic programs serve the underserved population comprised of non-english speaking, uninsured and/or underinsured, homeless, and many other types of patients.



The pharmacy student clinic IPE initiative began in 2013, and as of 2016 was adopted by ACCP. Since then we have made great progress to expand our clinic programs and give students the kind of experience and exposure they seek depending on their comfort level. The Promise Clinic allows our pharmacy students to either serve on one of the student doctor teams or on the newly created pharmacy steering committee to manage polypharmacy patients. A majority of the patients who come to the Promise Clinic are in need of chronic disease management for conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. In contrast, the DSRIP program works with patients who are more at risk of hospital readmission. Both

programs are long-term commitments for students passionate about engaging in direct patient care services. On the other hand, our oldest clinic, the Newark Clinic, offers students the opportunity to experience interprofessional collaboration and apply clinical skills without requiring a long-term commitment. With each clinic serving unique patient populations and providing different types of clinical experiences, pharmacy students can choose from a program that align with their interests and goals.

While these clinics are perfect settings for students to integrate and apply their clinical didactic training obtained in the classroom, they also offer students a unique chance to volunteer their time to work with underprivileged patients. Basma Elztahry, a fourth-year pharmacy student who attended the DSRIP clinic reflects that "being able to listen to the obstacles that the patients come across helps me empathize with their struggles and seek ways to help them overcome their obstacles. A little time and listening can go a long way with this population". In addition to experiencing first-hand the importance of empathy in the healthcare field, pharmacy students are given the opportunity to work on interprofessional teams, where they learn how to collaborate to provide safe and effective patient care. "The addition of a PharmD student to our team has been very beneficial! The importance of selecting the proper OTC medications specific to our patient while also being cost-effective is an essential role held by the PharmD students. Furthermore, working in partnerships to provide care to our patient, who has chronic diseases, aims to help our patient achieve desired therapeutic outcomes through appropriate medication usage, diet, and lifestyle changes," says Anevea Tinnery, a second-year medical student who volunteered at the Promise Clinic alongside our pharmacy students.

ACCP Interprofessional Clinic Initiative, cont.



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We plan to further expand this initiative and inspire other schools to reach out and volunteer their time and skills at nearby clinics. Overall, the

Interprofessional Clinic Initiative has allowed our chapter student members to not only better understand the rewards and challenges of providing care to underserved patients but also embody ACCP’s core value of fostering “passion for extending the frontiers of clinical pharmacy.”

In addition to our clinic initiatives, ACCP provides professional development opportunities and educates members of our Rutgers community. Below are just some of the events we have hosted this past year:

1. Breast Cancer Walk
2. Midyear Fright Night
3. CV Critique/Mock Interview
4. Caffeine Awareness Tabling
5. Providence Square Senior Outreach
6. Research, Residency and Transplant Pharmacy Spotlights
7. Clinical Pharmacy Challenge
8. Clinical Research Competition



Yitao Tom Jiang- President
Bernice Lee –ACCP student chapter Liaison
Janki Vekaria- Secretary

Have an idea for a future newsletter item or have a question you would like addressed in a future issue?

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Knight Scholar

On Friday, November 2nd the Knight Scholar program completed interviews for the 2019-2020 academic APPE year. The Knight Scholar program offers APPE students the opportunity to participate in a longitudinal rotation experience. In addition to the four required rotations ranging from critical care to institutional pharmacy, students also have the opportunity to complete a longitudinal research project. Of the 48 pharmacy students who participated in interviews, 23 will be selected for the nine institutional practice sites throughout the state of New Jersey.



Following interviews for the 2019-2020 academic year, 17 current Knight Scholars presented their research data on Friday, November 9th.



NJSHP

Save the date! The annual NJSHP meeting & Exhibition will be March 28 to 29th at the Tropicana Atlantic City, NJ. Meeting details can be found at www.njshp.org.

Pharmacy Residency & Fellowship Showcase

The annual Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy Residency and Fellowship Showcase was held on Friday, September 28th at the Busch Campus Center (Multipurpose Room). We had 55 programs attend.

Ashmi A. Philips, PharmD, AAHIVP | Pooja Shah, PharmD, BCPPS

