

October 2, 2008

Dear Colleague:

I would like to introduce your students to our residency program at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS). I am asking that you forward this message to graduating students to assist our program and your students in determining if SAVAHCS is a good fit for post-graduate residency training.

The SAVAHCS is a Joint Commission accredited general medical-surgical medical center that has approximately 200 inpatient beds, 100 geriatric designated for geriatrics and extended care (sub-acute, rehabilitation, and palliative care), five primary care teams and associated specialty clinics, and seven community outpatient clinics in Tucson's outlying areas. The SAVAHCS serves over 40,000 patients in the primary care and specialty clinics annually. The medical center is affiliated with the University of Arizona College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, and College of Public Health located in Tucson.

The residency program is an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited Pharmacy Practice residency and encompasses training in internal medicine, surgery, geriatrics, and ambulatory care medicine, and administrative activities. Residents may also choose electives in other areas of care to tailor specific interests within the training program. In the past, such areas have included oncology, pain, hepatitis C, cardiology, critical care, mental health, and infectious disease.

The pharmacy residents are considered a vital part of the medical center and its mission to provide quality patient care in an environment that encourages active participation in the training process. All of our preceptors take pride in being involved in training future pharmacy leaders. The clinical pharmacists are actively involved with teaching Doctor of Pharmacy students and the residents.

Tucson is a city with a population of 1 million people located in southern Arizona. The climate is warm, sunny year round allowing for a wide variety of recreational activities including hiking, biking, swimming, golf, tennis, mountain climbing and skiing (Yes! Skiing in Arizona!). Arizona is the spring training home for several major league baseball teams (Chicago White Sox, Colorado Rockies, and Arizona Diamondbacks). The University of Arizona offers an assortment of sports, music, theater, and dance groups that tour the United States and perform on campus.

We will be taking part in the Residency Showcase at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting this year on **Tuesday morning, December 9**. Our booth is number **5134**. The current pharmacy residents and some preceptors would like to take the opportunity to discuss our residency program with any of your students who are considering a residency training program after graduation. Any additional questions students may have can be sent to any of the preceptors or me listed on our website.

[www.tucson.va.gov/careers/pharmacy\\_residency\\_program.asp](http://www.tucson.va.gov/careers/pharmacy_residency_program.asp)

Thank you for your time, we look forward to hearing from your students and meeting with them in Orlando.

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