

# Residents' Roar

Fall 2007

## In This Issue

DI and Poison Center Merger  
2006-07  
Alumni Updates  
Class of 2007-08  
Professional Updates  
Recent Publications  
Important Dates

1  
2  
2  
3-6  
7  
7  
8

**42nd ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting**  
Las Vegas, Nevada; December 2-6, 2007

**Residency Showcase**  
Tuesday, December 4; 8:00 – 11:00 AM  
Booth #5452

**Pitt Reception**  
Monday, December 3; 5:30 – 7:30 PM  
Venetian Hotel

## Important Dates

## Contact Information

Please send news and/or address changes to:  
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University of Pittsburgh Residency Web site: <http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/programs/rxresidency/Default.html>  
Archived editions of the Residents' Roar: <http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/programs/rxresidency/newsletter.html>

## Merger of the Drug Information Center with the Pittsburgh Poison Center

Continued from page 1  
found that the system is capable of meeting our needs to store and retrieve data on our drug information questions. As part of my residency, I will present a poster at the 2007 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., describing this Web-based software and its potential advantages over more traditional databases used for drug information documentation.

My Fundamentals of Drug Information rotation included becoming oriented to the operations of the drug information service, fielding drug information questions from health care providers, precepting Doctor of Pharmacy students, and discussing drug information topics with faculty members. I also worked with the poison information specialists and learned about how they promote public health by advising patients and health care providers on the management of poisonings. Additionally, I attended case presentations led by toxicologists to discuss patients being followed by the Poison Center. It is a great experience and an excellent opportunity to see a side of toxicology that pharmacists rarely experience.



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University of Pittsburgh  
School of Pharmacy

# Residents' Roar

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Residency Class of 2007-08

## Merger of the Drug Information Center with the Pittsburgh Poison Center

By: Christopher Wisniewski, PharmD

In May 2007, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) merged the University of Pittsburgh Drug Information Center with the Pittsburgh Poison Center to capitalize on their similar infrastructure of services. As the drug information (DI) resident, my first rotation was at this new facility, which is located at the Birmingham Towers in the South Side neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Poison Center, established in 1971, provides emergency poison information service to approximately 5.1 million individuals who reside in 44 of the 67 counties located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is one of 62 poison

control centers in the United States and is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In 2006, the Pittsburgh Poison Center staff responded to 123,228 telephone calls for emergency assistance. The majority of these calls, about 80 percent, came from the public, and the remaining 20 percent from health care professionals. The nationwide number for poison emergencies is (800)222-1222. More information about the Pittsburgh Poison Center can be found on the Internet at the center's Web site: [http://www.chp.edu/clinical/03a\\_poison.php#phone\\_loc](http://www.chp.edu/clinical/03a_poison.php#phone_loc).

The Drug Information Center, then known as the University of Pittsburgh Drug Information and Pharmacoepidemiology Center, was established in 1990. The center provides accurate and clinically relevant drug information to its patrons. The center primarily serves the staff of the UPMC hospitals and the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy; however, the center also

serves other health care professionals, both locally and nationally. The center received 1,416 questions from July 2006 to June 2007, the majority coming from physicians, pharmacists, and nurses. With the merger, the future of the Drug Information Center will involve more pharmacy staff and increased opportunities to provide information to a larger number of callers. The center will eventually provide drug information on the same 24-hour-per-day schedule as that of the Pittsburgh Poison Center. Health care professionals can reach the Drug Information Center by calling (412)647-DRUG.

As part of the merger of the two centers, the Drug Information Center adopted Visual Dotlab®, the database used by the Poison Center for documenting calls. This system was developed by a pharmacist for poison information center data collection. We have

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## Where Are They Now?

Residency Class of 2006-07

### Community Care Pharmacy Practice

Margie Snyder  
Community Pharmacy Fellow  
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### Critical Care Pharmacy

Cassandra Bellamy  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist (MICU)  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Infectious Diseases Pharmacy

Saira Choudry  
Clinical Assistant Professor in Infectious Diseases  
Rutgers, The State University of NJ  
Jersey Shore University Medical Center  
Neptune, New Jersey

### Oncology Pharmacy

Shrina Duggal  
Clinical Oncology Pharmacist  
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Centers  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### Managed Care Pharmacy

Bethany (Heasley) O'Toole  
Clinical Management Pharmacist  
CVS Caremark/Caremark  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### Pharmacy (UPMC)

David Deen  
Clinical Pharmacist, Critical Care  
Memorial University Medical Center  
Savannah, Georgia

### Lindsay Palkovic

Critical Care Pharmacy Resident  
Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### Jason Pogue

Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Resident  
University of Michigan Hospitals  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

### Radhika Polisetty

Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Resident  
UPMC Presbyterian/Shadyside  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### Pharmacy (VAPHS)

Colleen Cook Tobia  
Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### Andrea Wilson

Clinical Pharmacist  
Washington Hospital  
Washington, Pennsylvania

### Primary Care

Christin Snyder  
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
St. Louis College of Pharmacy  
John Cochran Veterans Affairs Hospital  
St. Louis, Missouri

## Alumni Updates

### Future Residents:

Ava Carolyn Jankowski, born on 6/24/2007, daughter of Nicole Ansani ('99)  
Benjamin Brewer, born on 1/19/2007, son of Jeffrey Brewer ('00)  
Lucia ("Lucy") Carlotta Castelli, born on 12/4/2006, daughter of Emily (Wade) Castelli ('00, '01)  
Cara Grace Dormarunno, born on 7/4/2007, daughter of Catherine (Eckard) Dormarunno ('01)  
Olivia Ann Marche, born on 5/11/2006, daughter of Sarah (Zajko) Marche ('01)  
Natalie Connor, adopted on 8/7/2007, daughter of Sharon Connor ('95)

### Newly Wed:

Jessica Bollinger ('06) and Brian Benson on February 10, 2007  
Bethany Heasley ('07) and Casey O'Toole on June 2, 2007  
Lanre Okusanya ('03) and Enitan Oyedeji on June 2, 2007  
Christina Schober ('03,'04) and David DeRemer on September 3, 2006  
Melissa Somma ('99) and Phil McGivney on June 2, 2007

## Professional Updates

William Bailey ('92) was recently named by PharmaVOICE Magazine as one of the "100 most inspiring people in the life sciences industry." PharmaVOICE selects its annual "PharmaVOICE 100" based on feedback by readers who nominate their peers for this honor.

Jessica (Bollinger) Benson ('06) completed her critical care residency and is now clinical pharmacy specialist, surgical ICU, at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Bethany Fedutes-Henderson ('03) took a new job with Sanofi-Aventis as a regional medical liaison, internal medicine, in July 2007.

Jonathan Ference ('04) and Heather (Kudis) Sakely ('05) recently passed the BCPS exam.

Ed Horn ('02) and his wife Paula moved back to Pittsburgh! Ed started as transplant clinical specialist at Allegheny General Hospital in September 2007.

Michelle McCarthy ('95) was elected as the president-elect of the Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists. Her term as president began in June 2007. Michelle practices as a drug information specialist at the University of Virginia Health System and serves as the program director for the PGY1-pharmacy and PGY2-drug information residency programs.

Sheel Patel ('00) is now assistant professor at Butler University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Rhonda Rea ('03) began a new position as regional medical liaison, metabolism, with Sanofi-Aventis in June 2007.

Christina (Schober) DeRemer ('03,'04) is now clinical assistant professor at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. She is also a primary care specialist at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) Health System.

## Recent Publications by Resident Alumni

Abate MA, Blommel ML. A self-assessment tool for drug information advanced pharmacy practice experience. Am J Pharm Education 2007;71(1):Article 02.

Benedict NJ. Sitaxsentan in the management of pulmonary arterial hypertension. Am J Health Syst Pharm 2007;64:363-8.

Blommel ML, Blommel AL. Pregabalin: an antiepileptic agent useful for neuropathic pain. Am J Health-Syst Pharm 2007;64:1475-82.

Coons JC, Fera T. Multidisciplinary team for enhancing care for patients with acute myocardial infarction or heart failure. Am J Health Syst Pharm 2007;64:1274-8.

Coons JC, Seidl E. Cardiovascular pharmacotherapy update for the intensive care unit. Crit Care Nurs Q 2007;30:44-57.

Corman SL, Coley KC, Schonder KS. Effect of long-term tacrolimus immunosuppression on renal function in liver transplant recipients. Pharmacotherapy 2006;26:1433-7.

Corman SL, Skledar SJ, Culley CM. Evaluation of conflicting literature and application to formulary decisions. Am J Health-Syst Pharm 2007;64:182-5.

Huang V, Gortney JS. Risk of serotonin syndrome with concomitant administration of linezolid and serotonin agonists. Pharmacotherapy 2006;26:1784-93.

Idrees U, Clements E. The state of US emergency care: a call to action for hospital pharmacists. Ann Pharmacother 2006;40:2251-3.

Juang P, Fish DN, Jung R, MacLaren R. Enteral glutamine supplementation in critically ill patients with burn injuries: a retrospective case-control evaluation. Pharmacotherapy 2007;27:11-9.

Juang P, Skledar SJ, Zgheib NK, Paterson DL, Vergis EN, Shannon WD, Ansani NT, Branch RA. Clinical outcomes of intravenous immune globulin in severe clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea. Am J Infect Control 2007;35:131-7.

Kockler DR, McCarthy MW. Zoster vaccine live. Pharmacotherapy 2007;27:1013-9.

Noronha G, Miller J, Brewer JM. Pharmacists as nonphysician practitioners. Fam Pract Manag 2007;14:11.

Okusanya O, Forrest A, DiFrancesco R, et al. Compartmental pharmacokinetic analysis of oral amprenavir with secondary peaks. Antimicrob Agents Chemother 2007;51:1822-6.

Rea RS, Battistone S, Fong JJ, Devlin JW. Atypical antipsychotics versus haloperidol for treatment of delirium in acutely ill patients. Pharmacotherapy 2007;27:588-94.

Rea RS, Donihi AC, Bobeck M, et al. Implementing an intravenous insulin infusion protocol in the intensive care unit. Am J Health Syst Pharm 2007;64:385-95.

Somma MA, Meyer SM. "Community of Learning" in experiential education. Am J Pharm Educ 2007;71(1):Article 19.

Taylor SE, Braitberg G, Lugt J. Multifaceted education initiative minimizes pethidine prescribing in the emergency department. Emerg Med Australas 2007;19:25-30.

Watson K, Seybert AL, Saul MI, Lee JS, Kane-Gill SL. Comparison of patient outcomes with bivalirudin versus unfractionated heparin in percutaneous coronary intervention. Pharmacotherapy 2007;27:647-56.

Watson K, Watson BD, Pater KS. Peripheral arterial disease: a review of disease awareness and management. Am J Geriatr Pharmacother 2006;4:365-79.



## Ryan Steadman

**PGY1: Managed Care Pharmacy  
Caremark**

Ryan is from Cincinnati, Ohio, and received his PharmD from the University of Cincinnati Winkle College of Pharmacy in 2007. His professional interests include the control of costs and trends in health care utilization, as well as the management of diabetes and associated outcomes. Ryan hopes to start a career in the managed care environment and to pursue an MBA.



## Erin Suhrie

**PGY1: Pharmacy  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System**

Erin is originally from Canonsburg, Pa., and received her PharmD from Ohio Northern University in 2007. Her main areas of interest are geriatrics and palliative care. Erin chose to complete a pharmacy residency at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System because of the palliative care program and the great opportunities to work with the elderly. Outside of pharmacy, Erin enjoys hiking, rollerblading, traveling, and Steelers football.



## Katherine Sullivan

**PGY1: Pharmacy  
UPMC St. Margaret**

Katie grew up in Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy in 2007. She discovered her love for Pittsburgh after visiting her younger sister, a student at Duquesne University, and has been hooked on the city ever since. She is excited to be spending the next two years at UPMC St. Margaret in a combined pharmacy and family medicine residency.

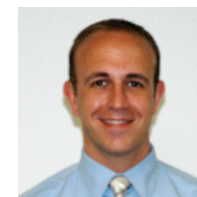


## Christopher Wisniewski

**PGY2: Drug Information  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside**

Chris received his PharmD from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia in 2004. He worked as a staff pharmacist at Lancaster General Hospital for two years and then completed a pharmacy practice residency at Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. This year, he is looking forward to determining what area of drug information practice will best suit him.

## Meet the Class of 2007-08



## Erik Abel

**PGY2: Cardiology Pharmacy  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside**

Erik is from Huntington, W.Va., where he received his BS in biology from Marshall University in 2000. After earning his PharmD from West Virginia University in May 2006, he completed a pharmacy practice residency at The Ohio State University Medical Center. After his specialty practice residency, he plans to pursue a clinical position in cardiology or cardiothoracic surgery in an academic medical center.



## Benjamin Anderson

**PGY1: Pharmacy Management  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside**

Ben received a degree in biology from the University of Saint Thomas in Saint Paul, Minn., and a PharmD from the University of Minnesota in 2007. He was in the first class to graduate from the Duluth Pharmacy School expansion. Ben became interested in pharmacy management after a rotation with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. He hails from Austin, Minn., otherwise known as SPAMtown USA.



## Megan Barkell

**PGY1: Pharmacy  
UPMC St. Margaret**

Megan is from Jeannette, Pa., and she received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in December 2006. After her pharmacy residency, she plans to obtain a clinical pharmacist position in an academic medical center. Megan's interests outside of pharmacy include spending time with family and friends, outdoor activities, and watching movies.



## Nicole Cerussi

**PGY1: Pharmacy Management  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside**

Nicole is from Pittsburgh, Pa., and received her BS in chemistry from Penn State University. She earned her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2007. Her involvement in organizations and activities has led to her interest in pharmacy management, and she looks forward to gaining leadership and management skills through the combined pharmacy management residency/master's in public health program.



## Jocelyn Diehl

**PGY1: Managed Care Pharmacy  
UPMC Health Plan**

Jocelyn grew up in Bedford, Pa., and received her PharmD from Duquesne University in 2007. She became interested in the managed care field after completing rotations with Rite Aid Health Solutions and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. After her residency, Jocelyn plans to stay in the managed care field and work toward becoming a medical science liaison and teach at a university.



## Lauren Fields

**PGY2: Family Medicine  
UPMC St. Margaret**

Lauren grew up in Bethlehem, Pa., and attended the University of Pittsburgh, receiving her PharmD in 2006. She subsequently began a two-year residency program at UPMC St. Margaret focusing in pharmacy practice, family medicine, and faculty development. She is additionally pursuing a master's degree in public health. Other interests include community-oriented primary care, care to the underserved, global health, and the Pittsburgh Pirates.



**Daniel Ford**  
PGY2: Critical Care Pharmacy  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside

Dan received his BS in animal physiology and neuroscience from the University of California, San Diego (USCD) in 2002. He earned his PharmD at the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2006. He completed a pharmacy practice residency at the University of California, San Francisco. After completing the critical care pharmacy residency, Dan plans to pursue an ICU position at a teaching hospital.



**Gladys Garcia**  
PGY1: Community Pharmacy  
Rite Aid Pharmacy

Gladys is from New Jersey and received her PharmD from St. John's University in 2007. She chose the community pharmacy residency because providing pharmaceutical care for patients in the community setting combines her love for business with clinical pharmacy. Her interests outside of pharmacy include spending time with friends and family, cooking, and dancing.



**Joedell Gonzaga**  
PGY2: Pharmacy Management  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside

Joe was raised in Milwaukee, Wis., and received a BS in political science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He earned his PharmD from Northeastern University in 2006. Joe is currently in his second year of the pharmacy management residency at UPMC. His professional interests include systems management, informatics, and quality improvement. In his spare time, Joe enjoys golf, tennis, cooking, and chess.



**Stephanie Harriman**  
PGY1: Community Pharmacy  
Rite Aid Pharmacy

Stephanie is from Jamestown, N.Y., and received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in April 2007. Her pharmacy intern experiences included community pharmacy, mail order and managed care, all of which helped to solidify her strong interest in community pharmacy practice. Her goals this year include developing her patient care skills and examining the relationships between health care professionals.



**Pamela Havrilla**  
PGY1: Pharmacy  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside

Pam was raised in Pleasant Hills, Pa., and received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2007. During her final year of pharmacy school, Pam became interested in providing pharmaceutical care to patients in the critical care practice setting. She plans to pursue a specialty residency in critical care and ultimately a faculty position at a school of pharmacy.



**Whitney Hung**  
PGY1: Pharmacy  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside

Whitney received her BS in pharmacy in Taiwan in 2001. After working for three years at a pharmaceutical company focusing in infectious diseases, she set a goal to become a clinical pharmacist and researcher in an academic medical center. Whitney traveled to the United States and earned her PharmD from NOVA Southeastern University in 2006. She plans to pursue a PGY2 residency in critical care pharmacy.



**Laura Jankovic**  
PGY1: Pharmacy  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Laura is from the Pittsburgh area and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in April 2007. She decided to pursue a residency to gain more clinical experience in her areas of interest such as oncology, ambulatory care, and anticoagulation. She plans to pursue either a PGY2 residency position or a clinical pharmacist position at a teaching hospital.



**Laura Krugger**  
PGY1: Pharmacy  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Laura is from Edinboro, Pa., and received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in April 2007. Her desire to expand her clinical knowledge and experience led her to choose a pharmacy residency. She hopes to enhance her patient-care skills and become a more confident and proficient clinician. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, movies, live music, shopping, and traveling.



**Asma Lat**  
PGY1: Pharmacy  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside

Asma received her PharmD from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007. Her current practice interests are infectious diseases and critical care. After completing her pharmacy residency, Asma plans to pursue a PGY2 residency in infectious diseases pharmacy. Her outside interests include reading, exploring Pittsburgh, watching the Texas Longhorns, and spending time with family and friends.



**Stacey Lavsa**  
PGY1: Pharmacy  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside

Stacey received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2007. Her areas of interest include internal medicine and drug information/drug use management. She plans to pursue a PGY2 residency or fellowship to prepare her for a clinical faculty position. Outside of pharmacy, she spends her time with friends, gardening, bowling, and attending Pitt men's basketball games.



**Katie McMillen**  
PGY2: Pharmacy Management  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside

Katie received her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2005. She worked as an intern and pharmacist at UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic prior to beginning the pharmacy management residency at UPMC last year. She is excited to be one of the first residents of the two-year program that includes a master's degree in public health in hospital pharmacy administration.



**Radhika Polisetty**  
PGY2: Infectious Diseases  
Pharmacy  
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside

Radhika received her PharmD from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy in 2006. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2007. After completing the infectious diseases pharmacy residency, Radhika plans to pursue a career as an infectious diseases specialist at an academic medical center where she hopes to balance clinical work with her love for teaching.