

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Fellowship at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC) In Conjunction with the University of Houston – College of Pharmacy

What is the Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Fellowship?

The Infectious Diseases Fellowship will combine infectious diseases clinical practice and research in a two-year program. The fellow will be trained as a clinical practitioner in the BSLMC Center for Antimicrobial Stewardship with patient care, monitoring, research, and teaching components. The first year will focus more heavily on clinical activities and progress into the second year with an extensive research focus. Research will be conducted in collaboration with expert faculty researchers from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy.

What is the history of the residency program at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center?

An ASHP-accredited residency in hospital pharmacy was first initiated at BSLMC (formerly St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital) in 1972. Full accreditation for this new post-graduate year 1 (PGY1) program at BSLMC was awarded by the ASHP Commission on Credentialing in July 1991. As of the fall of 2022, we have had 119 graduates of the PGY1 program and 6 in training. In addition, Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center has several additional pharmacy post-graduate training opportunities including:

- PGY2 Critical Care Residency (accreditation 1998)
- PGY2 Cardiology Residency (established 2007; full accreditation 2011)
- Two-year Infectious Diseases Fellowship in conjunction with the University of Houston College of Pharmacy (established 2008)
- PGY1/PGY2 MS and Pharmacy Administration Residency in conjunction with the University of Houston (established 2009; full accreditation 2011)
- PGY2 Solid Organ Transplant Residency (accreditation 2013)

What about the Department of Pharmacy?

The Department of Pharmacy at BSLMC consists of approximately 180 staff members, of which nearly 115 are pharmacists. All contemporary services are provided. We emphasize being a "pharmacist-centered pharmacy in a patient-centered hospital." Our distribution model uses unit based automation with decentralized clinical pharmacy services. We have automated carousels and automated repackaging in central pharmacy. Pharmacy Services are available 24/7 in central pharmacy. We have four pharmacy satellites in the operating room (OR), cardiovascular OR, outpatient OR satellite, and emergency department satellite.

The hospital itself has 850 available beds, of which 157 are intensive care. It has forty-four operating rooms and ten cardiac catheterization labs.

How is the infectious diseases fellowship offered at BSLMC?

The fellowship is a full-time (2 year) program which requires a commitment of 40-48 hours per week. The fellowship is conducted through the accomplishment of formal learning objectives, consistent with the accreditation standards of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). The program has an established core of learning activities but may also be custom tailored to each resident's background, experiences, and personal goals for the program.

The start date of the fellowship is around July 1st. Earlier or later start dates may be arranged based on individual circumstances. Ample time is given off to take the licensure exam if needed. ID fellows staff every third weekend and can expect to cover one major and one minor holiday during the year, in addition to a clinical practice month rotation. Two weeks of paid vacation are available during the year, and are given as additional pay if not used.

Tell me more about “staffing experiences”.

Staffing experiences mean that the fellow will be dedicated to working as a clinical practitioner here at BSLMC. Fellows complete their staffing component through every third weekend assignments and a clinical practice month rotation. While staffing, fellows rotate through positions focused on patient centered services as well as centralized prospective order review.

It is our belief that meaningful staffing experiences are absolutely necessary in the infectious diseases fellowship. We are, after all, focused on training competent practitioners who will provide pharmaceutical care to acutely ill and critically ill patients. Staffing experiences give the fellow the opportunity to function independently as a practitioner by conceptualizing and integrating accumulated experience and knowledge and transforming it into improved pharmaceutical care for patients.

What is the stipend and what benefits are included?

The current stipend per year is \$51,300. Fellows are entitled to the same benefits as clinical pharmacists. Baylor St. Luke's medical Center has a “choice plan” for insurance benefits, with many options available to fit the individual or family situation. Parking is provided for free at a remote lot with access to Metro Transit (Metrorail) and free, air-conditioned shuttle service at all hours.

The funded meeting is ID Week.

What are the fellowship requirements?

The following table outlines the Fellows' requirements to complete the program. Other requirements include staffing, code blue participation, on call responsibility along with other rotation requirements.

REQUIREMENT	PGY1	Admin 1	PGY2	ID FELLOW	Admin 2
Clinical On-Call	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sterile Compounding Certification	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Disease State Topic List Completion	-	-	✓	✓	N/A
Project I (Major Project)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Project II (Best Practice Improvement Project)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medication Use Evaluation	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pharmacy Practice: Drug class review, monograph, treatment guideline, or protocol (1-2 required)	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
IRIS Reporting (minimum 5 per year)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ASHP Poster (Project I)	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓
TSHP Poster (Project II)	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alcalde Presentation (Project I)	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pharmacy Rounds [Present both Project I (March) and Project II (May)]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Resident/Fellow Seminar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Case Conference x 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Journal Club x 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vancomycin Consult Service Validation	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Warfarin Consult Service Validation	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Review article (Critique journal article submitted to major journal)	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	N/A
Submission of at least 1 manuscript for publication*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Presentation submission to Fellowship Forum	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A
Thesis Submission to UH	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Submission to ID Conference	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A
Submission to ATC	N/A	N/A	✓ (SOT resident)	N/A	N/A
Submission to Critical Care Conference (may be after residency ends)	N/A	N/A	✓ (CC resident)	N/A	N/A
Submission to ACC	N/A	N/A	✓ (Cardiology resident)	N/A	N/A
Pharmacotherapy lab	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teaching & Scholarship in Academia Program	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓

*Must be by end of residency program. For Admin residents and ID fellows only, one manuscript must be submitted for each residency/fellowship year (total of 2 manuscripts). **SPECIAL NOTE: A residency/fellowship certificate will not be awarded until all of the above requirements are met. Any deviation of requirements must be approved by the Director of Residency and Fellowship Programs. This list is not inclusive of individual preceptor requests and other requests made based upon departmental needs.**

What other opportunities are available with the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center fellowship?

A major advantage of the fellowship program at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center is its location in the Texas Medical Center (TMC). The TMC is the largest medical center in the world, and is more than twice as large as the second largest medical center. It occupies over 500 acres, including twelve major hospitals representing over five thousand beds, and has a large central medical complex. It is home to nine academic institutions including two colleges of medicine, two colleges of pharmacy, several colleges of nursing, dentistry, and other medical disciplines. Furthermore, its location in the TMC provides for very close collaboration and networking with ID pharmacists and physicians across all of the major hospitals in the greater Houston area.

The TMC is adjacent to the Rice University campus and the Hermann Park/Museum complex of the City of Houston. BSLMC itself is home to the world renowned Texas Heart Institute[®]. The first human heart transplant in the United States was performed here; more open heart surgical procedures have been performed here than anywhere else in the world, and BSLMC has the largest cardiac catheterization facility in the world.

Houston is the fourth largest city in the nation and has an abundance of recreational opportunities. Immediately to the south of the Medical Center is the large Reliant Park complex, featuring NRG Stadium and the Astrodome Stadium. Evenings out can include events such as the Houston Astros, Texans, Rockets or Dynamo games. The beaches and attractions of Galveston Island are less than an hour away. Other activities include multi-cultural activities such as opera, the ballet, symphony or musicals. In addition, there are many places to eat and try new foods.

What is desired in an applicant for the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Fellowship?

We are looking for a mature individual who has made a career decision to become a leader in health-system or institutional pharmacy. The candidate must be prepared to make a serious commitment to satisfactorily complete all requirements of the program, as planned in advance. This commitment includes attendance at required meetings, programs and presentations along with the availability and willingness to participate in any function of the Department of Pharmacy on a 24-hour basis. The fellowship is tailored to each individual, and regular evaluations of accomplishment must be satisfactory. This is a program for mature individuals who are serious about the profession as a lifelong career, and ID as a specialty practice. **Applicants should hold the PharmD degree and complete an ASHP-Accredited PGY1 Residency in Pharmacy Practice prior to starting the fellowship.** Texas licensure is a mandatory requirement.

How does one apply and what about interviews?

Our application procedures are described on a separate document but include a curriculum vitae, college transcripts (if less than five years post-graduation), three letters of recommendation and completion of a professional and career assessment cover letter. **A previous ASHP-Accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency is a prerequisite for the program.** The application deadline is **January 4 at 11:59 pm.**

An on-site interview is considered very important and is required for a complete application. All applications will be screened by our Residency Advisory Council, and all applicants chosen for interview will be contacted by the end of January. The on-site interview is generally a full day and will include a twenty minute presentation on an ID topic of your choice to a group of pharmacists.

You will interview with clinical pharmacists, residents, pharmacy management as well as ID faculty from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. Financial assistance for the on-site interview is not available, but we will work with you in any way we can to reduce expenses.

More information and questions?

Please contact:

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