

Riverside Area PGY1 Residency Program

Meet the Residents...

Mustafa Awadalla, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident

Who are you?

Hello, my name is Mustafa Awadalla and I am a graduate from Keck Graduate Institute. When I was a child, my favorite part of going to the doctor when I was sick was going to the pharmacy afterwards. However, this was likely because my mom would always buy me candy from the pharmacy. My interest in medications didn't spark until later in my life when I became aware of the vast number of different medications available. I find it very fascinating how something as small as a pill could have vastly different effects in our bodies depending on the drug. I am very grateful for the education I have received as I truly cherish being capable in assisting my aging family members with their healthcare-related questions. Being a source of knowledge and support for my family and patients has been immensely rewarding as I can play a role in contributing to their quality of life. My pharmacy work history while in school includes retail and MTM experiences which was valuable in implementing and practicing what I learned in school directly to the patients I care for.

What are some of your interests?

My personal interests include playing video games and keeping up with the constant new trends in tech. I tend to enjoy most movies, but I particularly enjoy horror movies and movies that feature time travel and/or paradoxes. I also enjoy doing escape rooms with friends and relaxing on the beach. Lastly, I enjoy caring for my two dogs and watching them grow together.

When should I start working on my application?

I believe it is ideal for prospective applicants to continually update their CV throughout pharmacy school as there is many different experiences that pharmacy students complete, and it can be difficult to remember everything that was done from the P1-P4 years. I would also recommend having an idea of who you would want to be your letter of recommendation writers and requesting an LOR from them at the beginning of P4 year to give them adequate time. They may also offer valuable advice to you as the application due dates approach. I would also recommend working on applications no later than a month before they are due for the program you are interested in with the earliest due date.

Why did you pick residency and why Riverside?

I chose to undergo a residency program because I wanted to expand on my clinical and leadership skills to contribute to the improvement of the health of the patients I serve. While I learned a lot in pharmacy school and underwent significant personal growth, I still felt that I had more to learn as I was not yet comfortable with working in a clinical setting. I hope to learn a lot from my mentors and to finish residency feeling competent to begin working as a clinical pharmacist.

I chose Kaiser Permanente Riverside because of my wonderful personable experiences I had attending the information sessions, residency showcases, and the open house. The preceptors I interacted with gave off a very welcoming vibe and the residents at the time expressed how supported they felt.

How can I reach you?

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Meet the Residents...

Andre Dzhambazian, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident

Who are you?

Hello, my name is Andre Dzhambazian. I am a first-generation college graduate, proudly born and raised in the vibrant city of Los Angeles, CA. Growing up, I found myself assuming the role of the primary caregiver at home from a young age, which ignited my passion for healthcare and the field of pharmacy. My educational journey began at an Armenian private school, which I spent 15 formative years honing my skills and nurturing my love for learning. Fueled by my desire to make a difference in the health care field, I embarked on a new chapter at UCLA, majoring in psychobiology, where I further cultivated my knowledge and gained invaluable experiences. I continued my pharmacy journey at West Coast University School of Pharmacy (WCU SOP), where I met great mentors and role models, learning about the role of a clinical pharmacist and their impact on the healthcare of our community. Finally, I reached a significant milestone in my educational pursuits with my graduation from WCU SOP, armed with the expertise and determination to contribute meaningfully to the world of pharmacy.

What are some of your interests?

I have a variety of interests, ranging from outdoor activities (hiking, running, etc.) to photography, watching movies, and weightlifting, practicing mindfulness and destressing for the next day. I find it important to have interests and hobbies that will provide opportunities for self-growth and time to truly work on yourself, to become stronger both mentally and physically.

When should I start working on my application?

I started working on my residency application during my first block of my APPE rotations. Prior to starting my application process, I worked tediously on organizing and perfecting my curriculum vitae (CV), which paved the way to a smoother process overall, by having most of the information needed on the application already written out. I recommend starting on the application early on, and documenting all interventions and projects completed during your rotations, which will aid in the process of inputting that information into the application as well. APPE rotations can become time consuming at times, and having all the information mapped out prior helps with the process tremendously.

Why did you pick residency and why Riverside?

I was adamant about doing a residency after pharmacy school, to further enhance my clinical skills, receive specializing training, and foster personal growth by encouraging self-reflection, time management, and effective communication skills.

I chose Kaiser Permanente Riverside primarily due to the welcoming atmosphere the pharmacy team always provided during open houses, conferences, and interview process. The caring nature of the team made me feel welcomed and valued, and I saw the potential of self-growth through the program, sharing the same vision at the residency program.

How can I reach you?

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