

Riverside Area PGY1 Residency Program

Meet the Resident...



Karen Bui, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident
Kaiser Permanente, Riverside, California

Who are you?

My name is Karen Bui, and I am a PGY1 Pharmacy Resident at Kaiser Permanente Riverside. I graduated from University of California, Irvine School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Throughout pharmacy school, I kept an open mind and sought opportunities to explore the many areas of pharmacy. From working in community pharmacy and a remote patient monitoring program to participating in research that I presented at ASHP Midyear 2025, I discovered how each experience shaped my passion for patient-centered care. I also enjoyed staying involved outside the classroom by serving as Treasurer for the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists and participating in the Vietnamese Pharmacy Health Association (VPhA). These experiences strengthened my passion for lifelong learning, collaboration, and services, ultimately inspiring me to pursue residency. During this additional year of training, I hope to become a more confident leader, continue finding meaning in the work I do, and make a lasting impact on the patients and communities I serve.

What are some of your interests?

Outside of pharmacy, I love exploring new restaurants, matcha and coffee shops, and hidden gems around Orange County. In my free time, you can often find me thrifting, spending time at the beach, or planning my next travel adventure. Some of my favorite recent trips have been to Vietnam, Japan, and Greece with my co-resident, Rachel. Whether I'm discovering a new place or spending time with family and friends, I cherish creating meaningful memories and making the most of every experience. I strive to live with gratitude, embrace new opportunities, and maintain a healthy balance in all aspects of life.

When should I start working on my application?

Honestly, as soon as possible! Starting in your P1 year, focus on gaining experiences that interest you, whether through work, research, leadership, or student organizations. Attend CV workshops and seek feedback along the way. More importantly, build strong relationships with your preceptors and mentors. Ask questions, stay curious, and don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. By your P3 year, you should start polishing your CV, thinking about potential letter writers, and working with your advisor to schedule an acute care rotation early if you are interested in pursuing a residency. During APPEs, keep track of everything you do on each rotation, including journal clubs, presentations, patient cases, and other accomplishments you're proud of. Pharmacy school goes by quickly, and every experience builds on the last, so take advantage of every opportunity.

Why did you pick residency and why Riverside?

I chose to pursue residency because I wanted to continue challenging myself, expand my clinical knowledge, and become a more confident pharmacist and leader. Residency felt like the next step in my professional growth and an opportunity to make a greater impact on the patients I serve. I chose Kaiser Riverside because of its supportive learning environment, collaborative culture, and the genuine investment the preceptors have in each resident's success. The way previous residents spoke about the program, combined with my experience on interview day, made it clear that this was a place where I could thrive both personally and professionally while developing into a well-rounded clinical pharmacist.

How can I reach you?

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Meet the Resident...



Rachel Allen, Pharm.D.
PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident
Kaiser Permanente, Riverside, California

Who are you?

My name is Rachel Allen, and I graduated pharmacy school from the University of California, Irvine (UCI). I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in healthcare, but it wasn't until I was introduced to the pharmacy profession that I found the perfect blend of my passions for science, patient care, and education. During pharmacy school, I was actively involved in leadership and service. I served as Community Advocacy Chair for our local SSHP chapter and later as President-Elect and President of my class cabinet. One of the most meaningful experiences of my academic journey was being selected as a student speaker at our commencement ceremony. Through these experiences, I developed a passion for advocacy, mentorship, and building connections within the profession. What I value most about pharmacy is the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on patients' lives while continuing to learn and grow as a clinician.

What are some of your interests?

Outside of pharmacy, my greatest joy is spending time with my son, Everett. Whether we are trying a new sushi restaurant, watching the sunset at the beach, or just making memories together, he reminds me of the importance of balance and finding joy in life's little moments. I also enjoy traveling and recently took a graduation trip to Greece with my co-resident Karen.

When should I start working on my application?

I would recommend residency applicants start preparing their applications as early as possible during their final year of pharmacy school. One of my biggest pieces of advice is to consistently update your CV throughout the year. You'll be surprised how much you've accomplished by graduation, and having everything documented makes the application process much smoother. Starting early will also give you time to explore programs, connect with mentors, and put together an application that truly reflects your goals.

Why did you pick residency and why Riverside?

I chose residency to challenge myself and continue growing as a clinician. Throughout the application process, every interaction I had with Kaiser Permanente Riverside left a positive impression. The residents spoke highly of the supportive learning environment and the many opportunities for both professional and personal growth. I was looking for a program where I would be surrounded by people who were invested in my success, and KP Riverside stood out as a place where I could learn, grow, and thrive.

How can I reach you?

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