

Spotlight Message



Meredith B. Toma, PharmD

Clinical Assistant Professor, Blood and Marrow Transplant
University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy
Oklahoma City, OK

ROLE

- Inpatient multidisciplinary rounds with blood and marrow transplant team
- Course lecturer in hematology/oncology module for P3 students
- Course co-coordinator for P4 seminar course
- Preceptor for Doctor of Pharmacy students in introductory, intermediate, and advanced pharmacy practice experiences

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Both of my parents worked in the health care field, so I was always drawn to science and math growing up. During my undergraduate course work at The Ohio State University, I was torn between medicine and pharmacy. After volunteering at OSU Medical Center and discussions with my father, I chose to apply for pharmacy school. My father frankly discouraged medicine because of changes he had seen in the profession throughout his career and I liked the flexibility that pharmacy offered. There are so many areas available for specialization (hematology/oncology, pediatrics, etc.) and practice settings (community, industry, hospital-based), among other things. During my practice residency, I was again torn - between pediatrics and hematology/oncology this time. My BMT rotation helped convince me that hematology/oncology should be my path. That particular rotation was extremely busy, but provided an immense learning opportunity with a fascinating patient population.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ASHP New Practitioners Forum Professional Practice Advisory Group
- Hematology/Oncology Pharmacists Association Membership Committee
- Member in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, Hematology/Oncology Pharmacists Association, Oklahoma Society for Clinical Oncology and Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists

ADVANCED TRAINING

- PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, Lexington, KY
- PGY2 Hematology/Oncology Specialty Residency at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, Lexington, KY
- Currently pursuing board certification in oncology pharmacy

ADVICE

A quote by Henry Miller: "The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself. "