

November 2017

# Residency Newsletter



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## Welcome!

The ASHP Leadership Development Advisory Group (LDAG) would like to help you stand out from the crowd whether you wish to land the pharmacy residency of your dreams or you are not sure if a pharmacy residency is for you. The LDAG's residency work group will be creating a monthly newsletter to help student pharmacists learn how to make themselves stand out as a desirable candidate for a postdoctoral training program. The LDAG serves to advise ASHP student members regarding the growth and development of future health-system pharmacy leaders to cultivate a culture founded on the philosophy that leadership is a professional obligation. Pharmacists never stop learning and developing leadership skills, which is why it is important to start early on. No matter what career stage a pharmacist is at, learning and leadership development contribute to ongoing professional and personal growth. Thanks for reading and stay tuned for helpful insights into the pharmacy residency application process!

## Important Upcoming Dates

Register for [Personnel Placement Service](#) (PPS) \$145

**November 1st:** [PhORCAS](#) application opens

**December 2nd:** Clinical Skills Competition

**December 3rd - 7th:** Midyear Clinical Meeting in Orlando, FL → student member price \$325.00

[\(link\)](#)

## Midyear 411

The ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition, commonly referred to as “Midyear” or “MCM,” is the largest professional pharmacy conference in the world. The 2017 meeting is being held in Orlando, FL from Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> through Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and celebrates ASHP’s 75th anniversary. Special events this year include *A Moderated Conversation* with former First Lady Michelle Obama during the Opening Session on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and an Epic Evening event at Universal Studios on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (see below for more details). If the special events weren't enough to draw you in, then surely the residency showcase will. The residency showcase at Midyear is the largest and most popular showcase among pharmacy students nationwide. Three residency showcase sessions are scheduled throughout the meeting, on Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning, and Tuesday afternoon. There are plenty of other events and activities to keep you busy when you are not attending a showcase session. Student programming is available on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday as well as daily clinical programming. There will be over 500 expert speakers at the meeting just waiting to share their knowledge with everyone in attendance! Students also have the opportunity to present at and attend poster sessions. The deadline to submit a poster for presentation has already passed but be sure to attend the poster sessions to network and see what is happening in the world of pharmacy! The schedule-at-a-glance for the 2017 Midyear Clinical Meeting can be found [here](#).

## Orlando: The Happiest Place on Earth

The 52<sup>nd</sup> ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition is in warm and sunny Orlando, FL at the Orange County Convention Center West Concourse. Orlando is well known for being home to family attractions, such as Walt Disney World, SeaWorld, and Universal Studios Florida. Several surrounding hotels have worked with ASHP to give attendees discounted rates and shuttle services. A list of participating hotels and travel information can be found at [this link](#). Midyear ends with an Epic Evening event and this year ASHP has surely delivered! Enjoy an adventurous night at Universal Studios Florida with unlimited access to famed attractions, such

as The Wizarding World of Harry Potter and Race Through New York starring Jimmy Fallon! The excitement will take place Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Questions about general information, registration, and travel? Visit this [link](#).

## Personnel Placement Service (PPS)

Are you looking for a residency, fellowship, or full-time position? Well PPS may be the right place for you. PPS is one of the nation's largest recruitment services, and it is held every year at the Midyear Clinical Meeting. Approximately 400 employers will be present this year over the course of the meeting. PPS is an excellent avenue for interviewing with residency or fellowship programs and even future employers. Not every residency program participates in PPS, which is why it is important to review the list of participating programs prior to registration (see the link above in "Upcoming Events".) The registration fee is \$145 up through the Meeting. Once registered, upload a copy of your curriculum vitae (CV) and request interviews with residency programs of interest to you. PPS will take place from December 3<sup>rd</sup> through December 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## We Asked You Answered!

Q. What advice would you give prospective residents attending this year's ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting?

- *"If you're going to Midyear, have specific questions prepared that will help you narrow down programs."*
- *"Figure out when and where your programs are before the residency showcase because the time will fly by and you may not make it to all of them."*
- *"Get organized, make a spreadsheet (some kind of list) of your potential programs, and do your research about the programs beforehand!"*
- *"Remember your business cards... you never know who you will run into."*
- *"Pharmacy is a small world. You could end up sitting next to a residency director or current resident on the plane to Midyear. Remember to remain professional at all times!"*

→ “Midyear is a great meeting to attend if you are considering programs all over the country. It is the best and easiest way to get a good look at all of the programs you are interested in, in one place. It is 100% informational for you to make a decision on a residency that is best for you, so take full advantage of it and don’t be nervous.”

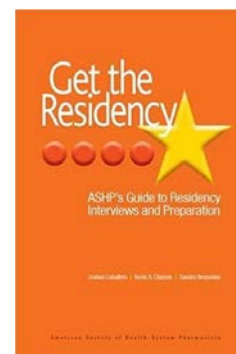
\*Residency program listing and floor plans for the showcase

[Residency Program List for MCM '17](#)

[Residency Showcase Floor Plan](#)

## Fourth Year: The Home Stretch

Your personal statement or letter of intent is an essential piece of a residency application. It is important to start writing your letter of intent early on and have several trusted mentors review it along the way. This will help eliminate some of the stress associated with completing applications. You may want to consider having several versions of your letter of intent to send to different programs. Letters of intent are commonly broken down into three sections: introduction, body paragraphs, and closing.



- **Introduction:** Address the residency director and include their exact title (i.e., John Smith, Pharm.D., BCPS)
- **Body:** Introduce yourself and include site-specific interests. Be sure to include your individual goals and plans. Highlight the attributes that make you a desirable candidate.
- **Closing:** Be sure to thank your reader(s) for the opportunity.

It is important to label your letters of intent carefully. During the blur of the application process, it is easy to upload a site-specific letter to the wrong site. Also, try to avoid copying information from your CV verbatim (remember programs will be reviewing your CV as well). Residency directors will be sifting through hundreds of applications, so keep your letter to the point to avoid having your reader lose interest. For more information, please reference *Get the Residency: ASHP's Guide to Residency Interviews and Preparation* (Caballero, Clauson, & Benavides, 2012.)

# Residency Application Timeline

## October/November:

- Register for ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
- Start selecting programs to visit during the showcase
- Consider registering for PPS
- Plan Midyear travel and housing accommodations
- Review programs and information about the Match
- Register for PhORCAS and the Match
- Finalize letters of intent and CV
- Request that transcripts are sent to PhORCAS
- Participate in mock interviews
- Prepare an “elevator speech”

## Coming Up Next Time... Midyear Pro Tips

Have suggestions for newsletter topics? Email us at [rachaelterry@health.usf.edu](mailto:rachaelterry@health.usf.edu) or [sara.ward@uky.edu](mailto:sara.ward@uky.edu)

Missed our last issue? [Click here](#) for the direct link.