

JOHN G. SHUNNARAH
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EDUCATION

Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

Auburn, AL

Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate

August 2020 – May 2024

Auburn University

Auburn, AL

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences

Magna Cum Laude

August 2017 – December 2021

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN/INTERN

December 2018 – present

Specialty Pharmacy, UAB Health System

Birmingham, AL

Supervisor: Keith Norman, PharmD, Supervising Pharmacist

- Assist in dispensing prescriptions and order entry
- Perform chart reviews to verify the appropriateness of allergies, medical conditions, medication lists, and other pertinent information
- Evaluate charts/pharmacy records for duplicate therapy, drug interactions, and unnecessary medications
- Counsel patients on medication and insurance questions, as well as assist with medication related needs
- Assist with inventory management of specialty medications and controlled substances
- Restock medications into automated dispensing machines and assemble administration kits for patients receiving injectable medications
- Familiarize myself with medications for complex and chronic disease states with an emphasis on organ transplantation

SHADOWING EXPERIENCES

One day shadowing experiences below included observing the pharmacist engaging in daily duties verifying medication orders, rounding with the interdisciplinary team, phoning patients to follow up on medication regimens, making therapeutic recommendations to providers, and providing discharge medication counseling to patients.

VIVA Health Birmingham, AL Pharmacist: Katy Collins, PharmD, BCACP	July 2022
The Kirklin Clinic at UAB Hospital Birmingham, AL Pharmacist: Josh Cortopassi, PharmD; Stephen Lirette, PharmD, BCPS, BCOP Neurology and Oncology Clinics	June 2021
Center for Psychiatric Medicine Birmingham, AL Pharmacist: Brad Burk, PharmD, BCPP	June 2021
UAB Hospital Emergency Department Birmingham, AL Pharmacist: Alisha Averett, PharmD	July 2019
UAB Hospital Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Unit Birmingham, AL Pharmacist: Andrea Tynes, PharmD, BCPS	July 2019
UAB Hospital Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit Birmingham, AL Pharmacist: Tim Lewis, PharmD, BCCCP	July 2019

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

ADVANCED PHARMACY PRACTICE ROTATIONS

Health System Practice (5 weeks) January - February 2024
DCH Regional Medical Center
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Preceptor: Ava Eure, Pharm.D., BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Manager

- Assisted the pharmacist with assembling crash carts in central pharmacy
- Familiarized myself with drug shortage procedures by attending pharmacy department meetings
- Assisted the pharmacist with verifying orders for patient-controlled analgesia and the post anesthesia care unit in the operating room
- Comprehensively followed four patients with the unit-based pharmacists, rounded with the interdisciplinary team and provided discharge patient counseling on various disease states and medications
- Observed the pharmacist in the narcotic room and became knowledgeable on the resolution of narcotic discrepancies

Managed Care (5 weeks)

November – December 2023

VIVA Health

Birmingham, AL

Preceptor: Katy Collins, PharmD

- Conducted daily outreach calls to 20 patients, ensuring consistent adherence to medication regimens for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Star Ratings
- Received training in coverage determination and prior authorizations
- Acquired foundational knowledge concerning commercial insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to develop and implement medication-related care plans tailored to individual patient needs and healthcare goals
- Attended Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) committee meetings to stay updated on formulary management decisions

Acute Care – Internal Medicine (5 weeks)

October – November 2023

Princeton Baptist Medical Center

Birmingham, AL

Preceptor: Nathan Pinner, PharmD, BCPS; Jessica Starr, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS

- Comprehensively followed an average of five internal medicine patients daily
- Collaborated with the attending physician, medical residents, and students to contribute medication-related expertise
- Assisted the pharmacy resident with vancomycin dosing consults
- Completed medication reconciliations for assigned patients
- Attended pharmacy residents' weekly presentations and students' journal analysis presentations

Ambulatory Care (5 weeks)

September – October 2023

UAB Hospital

Birmingham, AL

Preceptor: Grant McGuffey, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, CSP

- Offered personalized counseling sessions to patients, explaining the proper administration, storage, and potential interactions of specialty medications
- Collaborated with clinicians to provide medication therapy management for patients, ensuring adherence and managing potential side effects
- Submitted prior authorizations for specialty medications, ensuring all required documentation, clinical justifications, and insurance-specific criteria were submitted promptly
- Shadowed the clinic pharmacist in multiple clinic settings, such as Hematology/Oncology, Hepatology, Rheumatology, Gastroenterology, and Sickle Cell
- Attended the Alabama State Capital in Montgomery, AL as Governor Ivey proclaimed October as Pharmacists' Month

Medical Critical Care Unit (5 weeks)
DCH Regional Medical Center

July – September 2023

Tuscaloosa, AL

Preceptor: Farley Poellnitz, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

- Comprehensively followed an average of four ICU patients daily
- Provided independently formed assessments and recommendations in daily rounds to the interdisciplinary team
- Recommended modifications and/or adjustments to existing medication therapy regimens based on patient responses
- Participated in several topic discussions with preceptor, PGY-2 critical care pharmacy resident, and pharmacy students
- Assisted in accurately measuring and preparing doses of induction drugs during a rapid sequence intubation

Community Pharmacy (5 weeks)

June – July 2023

Publix Pharmacy

Vestavia, AL

Preceptor: Jeannie Grubbs, PharmD

- Completed Medication Therapy Management (MTM) modules and performed MTM consultations for patients with new medication therapy
- Compounded patients' prescriptions for creams, ointments, solutions, and suspensions
- Maintained the pharmacy inventory to properly record the count of C-II medications and reviewed purchasing and inventory control processes
- Conducted calls with patients to discuss their experience with medications and schedule future refills
- Participated in the medication dispensing process

Acute Care – Internal Medicine (5 weeks)

May – June 2023

DCH Regional Medical Center

Tuscaloosa, AL

Preceptor: Doug Carroll, PharmD, BCPS

- Comprehensively followed an average of three internal medicine patients daily
- Interpreted and evaluated medication regimens and created patient-centered plans to optimize their care
- Participated in daily rounds with the interdisciplinary team contributing my medication expertise
- Engaged in weekly interprofessional education lectures and topic discussions with medical residents and students
- Interviewed and counseled patients concerning their home regimens and hospital discharge medications

INTRODUCTORY PHARMACY PRACTICE ROTATIONS

Institutional Pharmacy Experience (2 weeks)

May 2022

Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center

Tuscaloosa, AL

Preceptor: Emily Gicewicz, PharmD, BCGP

- Counseled patients during admission and discharge regarding their medication regimen
- Completed consults regarding renal and hepatic impairment dosing
- Attended daily rounds with the interdisciplinary team discussing each patient's plan of care
- Answered physicians' drug questions by utilizing databases such as Micromedex and secondary literature resources such as PubMed

Clinical Pharmacy Experience (1 week)

May 2022

Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center

Tuscaloosa, AL

Preceptor: Emily Gicewicz, PharmD, BCGP

- Interpreted laboratory findings and recommended medications to providers to modify patients' pharmacotherapy regimen
- Reviewed patients' medication list by assessing the appropriateness of each medication
- Identified drug-related problems within patients' medication records and resolved discrepancies
- Completed and presented calculation worksheets and disease state overviews

Population Health - Telehealth Experience (1 semester)

January - April 2022

Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

Auburn, AL

Preceptor: Courtney Gamston, ScM, PharmD, BCPS

- Reviewed three patient charts from the Tuscaloosa Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Center on a weekly basis to identify candidates for immunizations
- Conducted phone calls to patients after chart review to schedule appointments for vaccines

Health & Wellness Rotation (1 week)

September 2021

Walgreens Pharmacy

Hoover, AL

Preceptor: Matthew Willette, PharmD, Pharmacy Manager

- Utilized current immunization guidelines and schedules to recommend and administer vaccines to patients based on age and concomitant medical conditions
- Educated patients on recommended goals for blood pressure and glucose levels
- Assisted in the medication dispensing process

Community Practice Rotation (3 weeks)

July 2021

Walgreens Pharmacy

Hoover, AL

Preceptor: Kecia Heath, PharmD

- Assisted with filling prescriptions and resolving discrepancies
- Communicated with physician offices concerning prescription errors, clarification, and refills
- Counseled patients on signs of opioid overdose along with appropriate naloxone use and administration
- Provided counseling and consultation on OTC medications
- Completed Medication Therapy Management (MTM) modules and performed MTM consultations for patients with new medication therapy and with late prescription refills
- Recorded inventory of controlled substances

PROFESSIONAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Shunnarah J, Blackwell S, Pinner N. Safety and Efficacy of Hydrocortisone Discontinuation Strategies in Septic Shock. 2023 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition Poster Session. December 2023
Anaheim, CA

Shunnarah J, Odum J, Wang J, Austin N, Kaddoumi A. Apolipoprotein E4 role in Alzheimer's Disease. Students Research Symposium at Auburn University. March 2023
Auburn, AL

Shunnarah J, Harrison C. Qsymia Drug Presentation. In-service presentation to pharmacists, residents, and students at Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. May 2022
Tuscaloosa, AL

Shunnarah J. Use of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring to Characterize Cefepime-Related Neurotoxicity. Journal analysis presentation to pharmacists, residents, and students at DCH Regional Medical Center. May 2023
Tuscaloosa, AL

Shunnarah J. Comparative Effectiveness of Fludrocortisone and Hydrocortisone vs. Hydrocortisone Alone Among Patients With Septic Shock. Journal analysis presentation to pharmacists, residents, and students at DCH Regional Medical Center. August 2023
Tuscaloosa, AL

Shunnarah J. Bempedoic Acid and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Statin-Intolerant Patients. Journal analysis presentation to pharmacists, residents, and students at UAB Hospital. September 2023
Birmingham, AL

Shunnarah J. Managing Hidradenitis Suppurativa with Cosentyx. Patient case presentation to pharmacist, residents, and students at UAB Hospital. October 2023
Birmingham, AL

Shunnarah J, Al-Azzawi R. International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF)/Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Guidelines on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diabetes-related Foot Infections. In-service presentation to pharmacists, residents, and students at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. October 2023
Birmingham, AL

Shunnarah J. Steroid Use in Patients Hospitalized with Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia. Patient case presentation to pharmacist, residents, and students at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. November 2023
Birmingham, AL

Shunnarah J. Antidepressant Drug Classes and Deprescribing. In-service presentation to pharmacists, residents, and students at VIVA Health. December 2023
Birmingham, AL

PUBLICATIONS

Alkhalifa AE, Al-Ghraiyyah NF, Odum J, **Shunnarah JG,** Austin N, Kaddoumi A. *Blood-Brain Barrier Breakdown in Alzheimer's Disease: Mechanisms and Targeted Strategies.* Int J Mol Sci. 2023 Nov 14;24(22):16288. doi: 10.3390/ijms242216288.

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH

“Blood-Brain Barrier Breakdown in Alzheimer's Disease: Mechanisms and Targeted Strategies”

Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy
Mentor: Amal Kaddoumi, PhD

“Safety and Efficacy of Hydrocortisone Discontinuation Strategies in Septic Shock”

Princeton Baptist Medical Center
Mentors: Sarah Blackwell, PharmD, BCCCP, BCPS; Nathan Pinner, PharmD, BCPS

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Allan I. Morris '66 Endowed Scholarship 2023 – 2024
Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

Dr. Byron B. Williams and Mary W. Beck Endowed Scholarship 2022 – 2023
Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Progress Endowed Scholarship 2021 – 2022
Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

Achievement Scholarship 2017 – 2021
Auburn University

Dean's List
Auburn University College of Science and Mathematics
Achieved Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2020

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Ambassador 2022 – 2023
Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

- Toured prospective students around the Walker Building
- Promoted a positive image of the Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy when interacting with Auburn pharmacy alumni and students at various school events

Secretary 2022 – 2023
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy

- Facilitated meeting coordination with executive committee members, including sending invitations and reminders
- Recorded and maintained attendance records in Microsoft Excel
- Managed, ordered, and acquired lunch for monthly meetings

Director of Financing & Fundraising 2021 – 2022
National Community Oncology Dispensing Association

- Accurately maintained a budget and updated records of all financial matters
- Administrated customized chapter national membership arrangements with the national organization
- Led all chapter fundraising initiatives and events

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists	2023 – present
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy	2021 – present
National Community Oncology Dispensing Association	2021 – 2023
Pack It Up Club	2021 – 2023
Auburn University Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy	2020 – 2023
Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists	2020 – 2023
National Community Pharmacy Association	2020 – 2023

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

2023 Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition December 2023

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Anaheim, CA

- Conversed with residents and residency program directors from various institutions to discuss program opportunities and exchange information

71st Annual Clinical Meeting November 2023

Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Birmingham, AL

- Engaged with residents and residency program directors from southeastern institutions to discuss program opportunities and exchange information

Wellness Screenings June 2023

Publix Pharmacy
Vestavia, AL

- Assisted multiple hours at Publix pharmacy providing patients with their weight, BMI, blood glucose, and cholesterol panel readings

VA2K Walk & Roll May 2022

Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center
Tuscaloosa, AL

- Participated in the 2K run at Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center to promote healthy lifestyles

Outreach Medicare SHIP Event September 2021

Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy
Opelika, AL

- Volunteered multiple hours assisting patients in finding and enrolling into an appropriate Medicare plan based on current medications and social histories

LICENSURE

Alabama State Board of Pharmacy
Pharmacy Intern License
License Number #S13398

August 2020 – present

Alabama State Board of Pharmacy
Pharmacy Technician License
License Number #T54873

January 2018 – August 2020

CERTIFICATIONS

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Basic Life Support (BLS)	March 2022
Smoking Cessation Training Certification	March 2022
American Pharmacists Association Immunization Certification	August 2021
Question, Persuade, and Refer Suicide Prevention Certificate	October 2021
Medicare Outreach SHIP Certification	September 2021
Mental Health First Aid Certification	September 2021
HIPPA & Security Training Course	April 2021
Blood Borne Pathogens Training Course	April 2021
CPNP Naloxone Training Certification	March 2021
NHA ExCPT Pharmacy Technician Certification, #J7M3L8G2	August 2018

REFERENCES

References are available upon request.