Preparing for a Pediatric Pharmacy Residency

Tips for the residency application process

First- and second-year pharmacy students

- Maintain a competitive pharmacy school GPA (ideally 3.0 and above)
- Demonstrate leadership qualities and involvement in pharmacy school activities
- Create a CV and update it regularly
- Maintain contact with pharmacy faculty and pharmacists you have worked with. You may want to ask them for letters of recommendation when applying for a pediatric residency in the future
- Show interest and learn more about pediatric pharmacy
  - Participate in events and activities involving children
  - Talk to and/or shadow a pediatric pharmacist
  - Volunteer/work at a pediatric hospital, clinic or other facility
  - Take a pediatric elective class in pharmacy school
- Consider attending the residency showcase at regional clinical meetings (e.g. CSHP Seminar) and/or ASHP Midyear

Third-year pharmacy students (or second-year students in a three-year program)

- Continue above recommendations for first and second-year students
- Request a pediatric clinical rotation to take place at the beginning of your rotational year
  - Residency interviews are generally in late January and February, so have your pediatric experience before your interview
- Begin developing ideas and making a list of prospective programs to talk to during your fourth year
- Strongly consider attending the residency showcase at regional clinical meetings (e.g. CSHP Seminar) and/or ASHP Midyear

Fourth-year pharmacy students (or third-year students in a three-year program)

- Continue to show interest in pediatric pharmacy
  - Do a pediatric clinical rotation, if available – try to schedule this before the application/interview period so you can speak of it in your CV and during interviews
- Schedule core rotations (i.e. internal medicine, ambulatory care, hospital rotations) before application period
- Build professional relationships with preceptors, supervisors, faculty and healthcare professionals you work with
  - These are your potential sources for letters of recommendation
- Go to residency showcase at regional clinical meetings (e.g. CSHP Seminar) and/or ASHP Midyear
- Application process and materials*
  - Thoroughly research programs you apply to, analyze strengths and weaknesses
  - Letter of intent - Tailor letters specifically for each program
  - CV – Make sure all extracurricular activities are highlighted (especially if pertaining to a pediatric experience)
    - Optional: a picture would be helpful too
  - Have application materials, cover letters and CV proofread
  - Official transcript (sent directly from pharmacy school to PhORCAS)
  - All application materials are submitted via ASHP’s Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PhORCAS). Application processes for each program may differ. For more information, see website for each residency program and visit www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/PhORCAS.aspx.
Prepare for Interviews
- Start early
- Prepare for personal/clinical interview questions
- Practice SOAPing patient cases
- Talk to pediatric pharmacists about current issues in pediatric pharmacy and potential interview questions
- Research the program you are interviewing for and talk with/ask questions of the current residents
- Prepare questions to ask about the program during your interview
- Practice your presentation (most pediatric residency programs require a presentation on a pediatric topic)

Navigating Residency Showcase (regional clinical meetings – e.g. CSHP Seminar – and ASHP Midyear)
- Introduce yourself and the year of pharmacy school you are in
- If you are a pharmacy student who is not looking to match this year (e.g. not your last year of pharmacy school)
  - Browse through the residency showcase and learn about available programs
  - Due to the large number of students attending the residency showcase, residency program directors may divert attention to candidates applying for the upcoming year
  - Be respectful of candidates looking to match for the upcoming year
  - Network with current residents and pharmacy directors
- If you are in your last year of pharmacy school and interested in applying for a residency program
  - Narrow down the programs you want to visit at the residency showcase before attending
  - Find out the date and time those programs will be at the showcase (not all programs will be present at all sessions)
  - Look at the residency showcase map to find the location of the program booths
    - Programs are listed by site, not by the specific type of residency program offered
    - Figure out your game plan – prioritize the programs you are most interested in and map out where they’re located
  - Make a list of questions you want to ask for each program
    - Consider writing the answers down after visiting a program’s booth
  - If you run out of time and are unable to get all of your questions answered, ask if the program will be at another clinical meeting and request additional contact information
  - After the showcase, take some time to write down what you liked and did not like about each program
  - Some programs, such as Valley Children’s Hospital, are involved in ASHP’s Personal Placement Services (PPS). This allows time for more personal one-on-one interviews, it gives candidates more opportunities to meet the director and/or preceptors, but it requires an additional fee to participate. Check with the programs you are interested in regarding PPS participation. For more information: www.careerpharm.com/basicPPS-seeker.aspx
### Residency Application Process Timeline

(For candidates applying to 2017-18 residencies)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>January-early March</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>July</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Review ASHP Online Residency Directory</td>
<td>- Register for ASHP Midyear</td>
<td>- Narrow down programs you want to visit at regional clinical meetings and/or ASHP Midyear</td>
<td>- Attend ASHP Midyear and go to residency showcase</td>
<td>- Applications due around Jan. 1, depending on program</td>
<td>- Completion of interviews</td>
<td>- July 1: Start of many residencies; check each program for specific start date</td>
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<td>- Register for regional clinical meeting (e.g. CSHP)</td>
<td>- Finalize CV (peer-reviewed)</td>
<td>- Ask for letters of recommendation</td>
<td>- If possible, schedule tours of programs to which you are applying</td>
<td>- Work on presentations (if required for interview)</td>
<td>- Narrow down residency choices</td>
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<td>- Make travel and housing arrangements for clinical meetings</td>
<td>- Attend regional clinical meeting and go to residency showcase</td>
<td>- Register for the ASHP Resident Matching Program and submit required fees at [<a href="http://www.natmatch.com/ashp">www.natmatch.com/ashp</a> rmp/reglink.htm](<a href="http://www.natmatch.com/ashp">http://www.natmatch.com/ashp</a> rmp/reglink.htm)</td>
<td>- Fill out required paperwork in PhORCAS*</td>
<td>- Prepare for interview questions</td>
<td>- March 3, 2017: Rank order lists submission deadline for Phase I Match</td>
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* Application paperwork and process may change. For more information: [www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/PhORCAS.aspx](http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Accreditation/PhORCAS.aspx)