On December 10th 2017, UF Health Shands officially opened the Heart & Vascular and Neuromedicine Hospitals. The new hospitals contain a total of 216 new beds, 15 operating rooms, and 5 cath/EP suites. These 216 beds provide ICU, IMC and step down levels of care with 120 beds dedicated to our heart and vascular patients and 96 dedicated to neuromedicine. Additionally, five of the new operating rooms have hybrid designs, which feature both a surgical theater as well as advanced imaging (including two intra-op MRI suites). The hybrid model allows patients with complex conditions or medical needs to remain in one area of the hospital - without the need to be transported out of the operating room during lifesaving procedures for additional imaging.

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Heart & Vascular and Neuromedicine Hospitals continued...

The first floor of the new hospital houses cardiovascular and neuromedicine outpatient clinics. The goal is for patients to be able to come to one location for all their inpatient and outpatient needs within these specialities. The opening of the new hospital has come with some exciting expansions for the pharmacy department as well. Housed in the ground floor is a main pharmacy location featuring two carousels and a brand new IV center. The new IV center features large non-hazardous and hazardous cleanrooms for the compounding of sterile products and chemotherapy. The opening of the new hospitals have provided the opportunity for pharmacy to further expand our presence with the addition of multiple new pharmacists and technicians who have all been working very hard to ensure a smooth transition in opening the new hospital.

Lucas Diaz, PGY-1

It’s a Whole New Role

This year we are fortunate to welcome two of our own, Melissa John and Megan Logan, into new roles within our department! Melissa, our current PGY-2 in Critical Care and past PGY-1 resident, will be starting her new role as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Cardiovascular ICU in the early Fall. What most excites Melissa about her new role is the opportunity to continue learning from the other clinical specialists here at UF Health Shands and developing relationships with the multidisciplinary team she will be working with in the unit. Melissa’s specific area of interests are end-stage heart failure management and infectious diseases in the critically ill, which she plans to focus on in her new position. Her short and long-term goals for her position revolve around improving antimicrobial stewardship, implementing cost savings initiatives, and promoting a culture of medication safety on the unit. Additionally, Melissa is looking forward to precepting residents and students, while developing her own preceptor style and aspires to become half as competent as Jenny Ashton.

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Directors's Corner

Without a doubt, the success of our pharmacy residency programs here at UF Health Shands is due to the dedication, hard work, and mentoring of our residency preceptors. This Director's Corner focuses on Jenny Ashton, residency program director of the PGY-2 in Critical Care and cardiac ICU clinical pharmacy specialist. Jenny is no stranger to UF or UF Health Shands, having earned her PharmD from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. She then completed a PGY-1 residency here at UF Health Shands before moving on to complete a second year residency specializing in Critical Care at University of Kentucky HealthCare. She then rejoined the UF Health ‘pharmily’ in her current position as the cardiac ICU specialist.

Jenny has been integral to the education and growth of many pharmacy residents. When asked what she likes best about being an RPD, Jenny wholeheartedly responded ‘mentoring’. “Being an RPD is a good opportunity in terms of leadership and management qualities, but also mentoring residents that you get as a program director.” Of course, she noted, these mentoring opportunities exist outside of being a program director. Jenny frequently precepts PGY-1 residents and serves as a research advisor. Jenny is caring, approachable and always ready to laugh.

In the past, Jenny shared her title of residency director with Jess Cope, the previous medical ICU clinical specialist. “The thing about working with Jess was more than just dividing up the administrative work,” Jenny pointed out. “We have similar thoughts on patient care, but also about the residency program. We always saw eye to eye about how the program should be conducted.” Looking forward to this upcoming year, Jenny is hopeful as they begin interviews for her new co-RPD. “I like the aspect of having a partner not just for the workload, but also for more input on how the residency will grow and change.” Like any wise leader, Jenny looks for a variety of input and feedback from all sources. “We on the critical care team function as a group. I do try to incorporate the full critical care group input and opinions, that’s how this residency functions.”

We asked Jenny what advice she would give any resident. “Grow you leadership skillset no matter what avenue you take,” she immediately replied. Whether through a residency advisory committee or as a team coordinator, residents should gear themselves up to be leaders. “Continue to strive even as you hit bumps along the way. And know that wherever you land, it’s where you were meant to land.”

Stephanie Molchan, PGY-1

ASHP Re-Accreditation Results

Congratulations to all of our residency programs for receiving ASHP re-accreditation! Four programs received a full 6-year re-accreditation – PGY1, PGY2 Pediatrics, PGY2 Infectious Diseases, and PGY2 Critical Care. The PGY2 Oncology program received a 3 year re-accreditation with an option to extend accreditation post analysis of the 3 year progress report. We are extremely proud of everyone who contributed to this effort but especially our RPDs, preceptors, and residents.
Ralphie’s Take

I write this in disbelief that I am reaching the end of my 9th year, and am preparing to complete my first decade at Shands. Only 20 more years until I can cash my banana pension. As much as I’ve enjoyed my time in oncology, I think the fair thing to do is allow others to reap the benefits of my many talents. I have my eye on the ID group, and have decided to complete my PGY-10 with them. But not to worry, I will still maintain my residence in the only home I’ve ever known, G548. I like to think the G stands for Gorilla. I may not be chief anymore, but I do like to think of myself as the resident dad, Papa G. Rilla. I’d like to leave a few parting words for my baby G. Rillas.

Nikki, I thank you for keeping my habitus cleaner than it’s been in years and am thrilled you’ll be here next year to keep things in line with the incoming PGY-1’s. I know it’s been a hard job as there have been many who have tried to thwart your efforts. New Luke, I’m looking at you. I appreciate you sharing your Chick-Fil-A with me, but please stop leaving the crumbs for the roaches to snack on. Speaking of roaches, one of my favorite moments of the year had to be when Akkil and I pranked Khushboo with the fake roach. Never underestimate us quiet ones. Khushboo, I hear you might move out next year. Promise me we’ll catch up over Taco Bell at least once a week? Stephanie, I’m sorry but your uncooked pasta won’t work for me as a snack, you’re free to take that to Louisville with you. However, if your husband wants to pack some bananas in case of a hurricane, I would fully support that.

As for my dearly departing PGY-2’s, I will greatly miss you all. Except you Melissa, because apparently you’ll never leave Shands. K, I’ve missed you in the office this year, even if you pretended like I didn’t exist. I hope you’ll always remember our mantra, even in Miami, TGIF – the grind includes Friday. Sarah, I’m going to miss our Chick-Fil-A nugget dates, perhaps we can skype and eat nuggets together next year? Anna, clearly your daily healthy meals have not made much of an impact on me. In your honor, I will try to eat healthier next year. I’ll stick to grilled nuggets and only gluten-free Taco Bell items.

In closing, it’s been another great year. I’m saddened to say goodbye to some old friends, but excited to make new ones. I look forward to continue to be the glue that holds the residents together. Maybe 2018 will be the year I finally get a new outfit. Keep your fingers & toes crossed for me.

Ralph G. Rilla, PGY-9
New Role: Pharmacy Coordinator

One of the many exciting changes that occurred at UF Health Shands this year was the “changing of the guard” as some of our pharmacists started their new roles as pharmacy coordinators. Kyle Koenig, previously one of the clinical staff evening shift pharmacists for the adult medicine team, is one of these individuals. Kyle has been at UF Health Shands for 7 years, after having graduated from the unquestionably fine institution of University of Toledo in the overwhelmingly friendly state of Ohio (seriously, it’s the best kept secret).

When asked about what he is most excited about going forward, he expressed that it was the opportunity to make a difference on a larger scale in the organization that he found most gratifying. There are obviously lots of changes going on in the organization, and so many individuals have the opportunity to get involved. Some of the changes he would like to focus on include work efficiency. For non-sterile compounding, he will be looking into using technology to improve workflow, a topic that was touched upon at several points this year. Regarding the 9th floor adult medicine satellite, this will involve making integrating effective workflow with the workload to optimize efficiency. The biggest challenge to overcome, he states, is finding solutions to problems that not only fix the problem but impact the entire team in a positive way.

His work as a clinical staff pharmacist has given him a healthy perspective on workflow, and he also has had experiences staffing in many different positions around the hospital. This, he says, provides insight on how to make those challenging but necessary decisions going forward to meet his goals for the group and for the institution. He has also been able to appreciate issues that are important to the current staff and where to focus his efforts and improvements. We are all very excited to have Kyle in his new role, and to see the efforts on various fronts come to fruition!

Anna Cosnahan, PGY-2 Pediatrics

It’s a Whole New Role continued...

Megan Logan will be taking over as the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Medical ICU. Megan completed both her PGY-1 and PGY-2 at The University of Kansas Health System, and is specifically interested in infectious diseases in the critically ill and safe medication practices. Over the next few years, Megan hopes to establish her own MICU practice model and to get involved in multidisciplinary committees, quality improvement initiatives, and residency research projects. Eventually, Megan would like to be involved in clinical research with the MICU team and to publish in this clinical area. What most excites Megan about her new role is getting back into providing more direct patient care while developing strong working relationships with the MICU providers, helping educate medical residents and being more involved in precepting pharmacy residents and students. As far as goals for her rotation, Megan hopes to provide education and support to allow residents to develop their own practice styles. By the end of her rotation, residents will be proficient and knowledgeable in providing evidence-based pharmaceutical care for the MICU patient population so that they can function as independent MICU pharmacy practitioners. Please welcome both Melissa and Megan to their new roles here at UF Health Shands!

Kristen “Nikki” Dominick, PGY-1
Professional Meetings and Conferences

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, 52nd
December 2017 in Orlando, FL
All the PGY1 and PGY2 residents, many preceptors, as well as UF Health pharmacy leaders spent the week in Orlando, Florida where recruitment and job placement events were taking place. All PGY1 and PGY2 in pediatrics presented results of their MUE projects and the rest of residents presented their research projects at the Vizient Health System Consortium poster session. The full UF Health group enjoyed a family dinner, mingled with new and old Florida friends at the UF Health and UF College of Pharmacy social reception, and the hallmark residency showcase provided an opportunity to meet many great PharmD candidates with interest in pursuing a residency. Overall, Midyear offered a great chance for resident bonding, professional networking, and continuing education for all who attended.

Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG) Annual Meeting
May 2017 in Salt Lake City, UT
Sarah Gattoline and Anna Cosnahan attended the PPAG conference along with preceptors Tara Higgins, and Keliana O’Mara. Anna presented her PGY2 research project titled “Effect of analgesia dose on hemodynamic instability in neonates undergoing intra-abdominal surgery”, Sarah presented her PGY2 project titled “Assessing Dose Accuracy of ISO 80369-3 Compatible Enteral Syringe Systems”. The conference included two specialty blocks with topics in general pediatrics and neonatal ICU. The meeting provided a great opportunity to obtain continuing education and network within the pediatric pharmacy specialty, and our department had an excellent presence throughout the week.

Making a Difference in Infectious Disease (MAD-ID) Annual Meeting
May 2018 in Orlando, FL
Kayihura Manigaba attended the MAD-ID conference along with preceptor Ken Klinker. Kayihura presented the results of his MUE titled “Utilization of Beta-Lactam Therapeutic Drug Monitoring to Support Continuous Infusion Meropenem”. Ken provided a workshop titled “Having the tough conversation” and presented a platform presentation titled “The Great Debate: Should Extended Infusion Beta-lactams be the Standard of Care?” The conference was focused on antimicrobial stewardship, with many interesting topics including gram-negative resistance update, diagnostic stewardship, stewardship in the newborn ICU; and how to deal with difficult cases while performing antimicrobial stewardship.

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Professional Meetings and Conferences continued...

Society of Critical Care Medicine Annual Congress  
February 2018 in San Antonio, TX

Melissa John attended the 4th SCCM annual congress along with preceptor Kelly Maguigan. Melissa presented her research project titled “Evaluation of time to antimicrobial administration post implementation of a sepsis alert system”. This annual congress covered variety of topics in the area of critical care medicine and provided a great opportunity to obtain continuing education and network within critical care specialty.

Florida Residency Conference  
May 2018 in Tampa, FL

The PGY1 residents and Melissa John traveled to Tampa, FL at the end of May to present their research at the Florida Residency Conference. In its third consecutive year in Tampa, FRC provided residents a welcoming environment in which to exchange research ideas and outcomes with fellow residents and preceptors throughout Florida. Stephanie Molchan presented “Utilization of Crofab post implementation of an institutional protocol and EPIC order set”. Luke Diaz presented “Evaluation of Delayed Clearance of High-Dose Methotrexate in Pediatric Patients”, Khushboo Patel presented “Impact of an outpatient pharmacy financial assistance formulary at an academic medical center”, Aklil Hiruy presented “Impact of a Standardized Albumin, Midodrine and Octreotide Combination Therapy in Hepatorenal Syndrome Treatment Response” and Nikki Dominick presented “Discontinuation of Vasopressin Prior to Non-Vasopressin Vasopressors in Patients with Vasoplegic Shock Post-Cardiac Surgery”. Residents and their advisors enjoyed the opportunity to present their research on a large platform, network with Florida pharmacy leaders, and spend time with their peers.

Kayihura Manigaba, PGY-2 Infectious Diseases

Looking to the Future

Sarah Gattoline (PGY2 Pediatrics Resident) is heading back to the Northeast where she will be a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She has most enjoyed the diverse rotational experiences she has had in pediatrics and building strong relationships with her preceptors and mentors. She has also enjoyed getting to know all of her co-residents and building life-long friendships with them. Sarah is most looking forward to getting to practice in her area of interest, getting to know all of her new co-workers and developing her own practice style. She is so excited for all of the new places that she and her pup will get to explore in their new city!

Melissa John (PGY2 Critical Care Resident) will be staying at UF Health Shands Hospital and stepping into her new job as the Cardiovascular ICU Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. She has most enjoyed developing relationships and learning from the clinical specialists and physician groups over the course of her residency. She is most looking forward to continuing to grow in her new role and plans to travel as much as possible with her new free time. She also cannot wait to move into a new home that will accommodate all of the new pets she plans to get!

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Looking to the Future continued...

Anna Cosnahan (PGY2 Pediatrics Resident) will be headed to New York where she will be a NICU Clinical Specialist at Bellevue Hospital. She has most enjoyed having the opportunity to work with such a diverse patient population, being challenged to think more independently and also having new experiences (surgery, ID) to complete a well-rounded year. She also enjoyed working with all of the clinical specialists within pediatrics and learning from the amazing pharmacists especially on the weekends, striving to meet those challenges that accompany the clinical on-call component and also having a stellar co-resident to get to share those experiences with. Next year, she is most looking forward to getting to establish her role on the NICU team, as it will be the first year they have had a clinical specialist on the unit, getting to know everyone in the pharmacy department and physician groups, and exploring one of the most amazing and fashionable cities in the world (especially the museums and restaurants)!

Kayihura Manigaba (PGY2 Infectious Diseases) will be heading down to sunny Miami, FL where he will be working as an Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacist at Jackson Health. This year he has most enjoyed the opportunities to grow personally and professionally. Next year he is most looking forward to starting his career as an Infectious Diseases Pharmacist and no longer being a resident, broadening his network by meeting new people, and adapting to Miami life!

Kristen “Nikki” Dominick (PGY1 Pharmacy Resident) is transitioning into her new role as a PGY-2 in Critical Care and the Chief Resident. Through her year at Shands she has greatly enjoyed building relationships with her co-residents, preceptors and other employees at the hospital and is most appreciative of the opportunity to be able to work with them. She also has enjoyed seeing her own self-development both professionally and clinically throughout the year.

Lucas Diaz (PGY1 Pharmacy Resident) will be heading straight back to the wonderful Shands to complete his PGY2 in Pediatrics. Some of his favorite things from this past year include having the opportunities to learn from and work with the awesome pharmacy staff at the hospital. Next year he is most looking forward to focusing on his area of interest and working directly with the pediatric teams (including his fiancé)!

Khushboo Patel (PGY1 Pharmacy Resident) will be staying at UF Health Shands Hospital to complete her PGY2 in Critical Care. She has most enjoyed getting to know her co-residents, preceptors, and all of the pharmacy staff that she has gotten to work with over the course of the year. In her next year, she is most looking forward to continuing to build upon her clinical skills and to grow even more as a practitioner.

Aklil Hiruy (PGY1 Pharmacy Resident) is excited to be finishing up her PGY1 residency and starting a new chapter in her career! She has greatly enjoyed learning so much, growing professionally, and getting to know her preceptors and co-residents. She is greatly looking forward to opportunities that will enable her to make a positive impact on patient care and apply what she learned during residency.

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Looking to the Future continued...
Stephanie Molchan (PGY1 Pharmacy Resident) will be heading to Louisville, KY to complete a PGY2 in Internal Medicine. Some of her favorite things from her year at UF Health Shands were seeing herself develop as a pharmacist over the course of the year and making friends with all of her co-residents. She especially enjoyed learning fun facts about her co-residents during interview day icebreaker sessions! Stephanie is most looking forward to being able to gain experience on how other institutions practice and operate, focusing on her area of interest and becoming an expert in that field all while having even more opportunities to teach and work with students. She is even looking forward to some snow and maybe even a white Christmas!

Meet the Residency Class of 2018-2019

PGY-1 Residency Class
Samantha Brokenshire is from Austin, TX and completed her pharmacy education at University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She is most looking forward to growing as a pharmacist, learner and colleague among some of the top healthcare professionals in the country, developing long-lasting friendships with the rest of her residency class and members of the department, and seeing the Carolina Panthers match up with the Bucs in Tampa!

Victoria Frame is from Winter Park, FL and completed her pharmacy education at University of Mississippi. She is most looking forward to learning from dedicated pharmacy mentors, collaborating with leading health care providers, and training in a nationally-recognized clinical setting where I can further explore my interests in pediatrics and academia. She is also looking forward to the opportunity to complete meaningful research and other residency project, Florida Gator football games and living in a place where it is warm and sunny all year around.

Kaitlyn Kowalski is from Anderson, SC and completed her pharmacy education at Medical University of South Carolina. She is most looking forward to refining her clinical skills and gaining confidence as a new practitioner, exploring the city of Gainesville, and getting to know and learn from the staff at UF Health Shands Hospital.

Terique McKenzie is from Miramar, FL and completed her pharmacy education at University of Florida College of Pharmacy – Orlando. She is most looking forward to developing and refining her clinical skills, meeting and working with other members of the healthcare team, working with and precepting pharmacy students, and contributing positively to the pharmacy department.

Christine Nguyen is from Abingdon, Maryland and completed her pharmacy education at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. She is very excited to move to Florida and begin this next chapter of her pharmacy career! What she is looking forward to this upcoming year is to strengthen her clinical knowledge and research skills as well as teaching skills through precepting pharmacy students. Professionally, she is interested in infectious diseases and solid organ transplant, and looks forward to the opportunity to increase her knowledge in these areas of patient care. What she is most looking forward to is building lasting relationships with her co-residents, preceptors, and other members of the UF Health Shands Hospital Community!

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PGY-2 Residency Class

Kristen “Nikki” Dominick from Prosperity, SC. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy in Clinton, SC. She completed her PGY-1 at UF Health Shands Hospital and is staying on to pursue a specialty in Critical Care. She is most looking forward to continuing to expand on her clinical and professional growth as well as getting to know the incoming PGY1 (and 2) residents!

Lucas Diaz from bright and sunny St. Augustin, FL. He earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida (Orlando Campus) and he was excited to join us here at the “mother base” for his PGY-1 at UF Health Shands. He will be staying on to pursue his specialty in Pediatrics.

Khushboo Patel originally from Elizabeth City, NC earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from UNC Chapel Hill in North Carolina. She completed her PGY-1 at UF Health Shands Hospital is staying to pursue a specialty in Critical Care. Even though she is leaving the resident room to take on critical care from the DI center, she still plans to visit her old stomping grounds. She is also excited to get to know the new incoming residents!

Robert (Rob) Crawford will be starting his PGY2 in Infectious Diseases. He is from Charlotte, NC and completed his undergraduate and Pharmacy school education at Eshelman School of Pharmacy at UNC Chapel Hill. He completed his PGY1 experience in Memphis, TN at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis – with a focus in barbecue and music. He is excited to move to Gainesville and broaden his knowledge in Infectious Diseases, work with the Antimicrobial Stewardship team, and enjoy the sunshine and travel (beaches, Disney World, etc.) in Florida.

Sarah Gattoline, PGY-2 Pediatrics

Personal and Professional Updates

Recent Publications

Shawn Griffin, Sarah Wheeler, Laura Wiggins, Hemant Murthy, Jack Hsu, Ashley Richards. "Pharmacokinetic and clinical outcomes when ideal body weight is used to dose busulfan in obese hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients" Bone Marrow Transplant, June 2018


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Personal and Professional Updates continued...

Recent publications


Vo TT, Bell GC, Owusu Obeng A, Hicks JK, Dunnenberger HM. Pharmacogenomics Implementation: Considerations for Selecting a Reference Laboratory. Pharmacotherapy. 2017 Sep; 37(9):1014-1022


Empey PE; Stevenson JM; Tuteja S; Weitzel KW; Angiolillo DJ; Beitselshees AL; Coons JC; Duarte JD; Franchi F; Jeng LJB; Johnson JA; Kreutz RP; Limdi NA; Maloney KA; Owusu Obeng A; Peterson JF; Petry N; Pratt VM; Rollini F; Scott SA; Skaar TC; Vesely MR; Stouffer GA; Wilke RA; Cavallari LH; Lee CR on behalf of the IGNITE Network. Multi-site investigation of strategies for the implementation of CYP2C19 genotype-guided antiplatelet therapy. Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2017 Dec 26


Ebied AM, Cooper-DeHoff RM. 2017 Is Banner Year for Drug Approvals by the Food and Drug Administration. The American Journal of Medicine. First Published April 4, 2018

Ebied AM, Gracey S. Acetazolamide Induced Sickle Cell Crisis. The Annals of Pharmacotherapy. First Published June 12, 2018

Posters and Presentations:

Thomas E, Diaz E, Nelson J. Effects of Multimodal Pain Control Regimen in Living Donor Laparoscopic Nephrectomies. Abstract presented as oral presentation at American Transplant Congress, Seattle, WA, June 2018


Nardechhia M, Broeker A, Derendorf H, Klinker K, and Wicha S. Poster. Evaluation of population pharmacokinetic models for vancomycin: which one is the most suitable for model-based probabilistic dosing? Accepted for presentation at the 28th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID). April 2018

Premraj S, Garg M, Park H, Cherabuddi K, Klinker KP, Borgert S, Venugopalan V. Use of a Severity Assessment System in Evaluating Management of SSTIs and Identifying Cost-Minimization Strategies at a Large Academic Hospital. Accepted for presentation at the 28th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID). April 2018


Resident Recap

Klinker KP, Finding Success in the Management of Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae: Defining the Role of Newer Agents. ASHP Webinar. January 2018

Klinker KP, Having Tough Conversations. Workshop at MAD-ID, May 2018

Klinker KP, The Great Debate: Should Extended Infusion Beta-lactams be the Standard of Care? Presented at MAD-ID, May 2018

Personal Updates
Gabrielle Furgiuele has accepted an ID/HIV/HCV clinical pharmacy specialist position with Kaiser Permanente in Atlanta, GA

Kristen “Nikki” Dominick was selected as the 2018-2019 Chief Pharmacy resident

Joelle Nelson is now a Solid Organ Transplant clinical specialist at University Health System in San Antonio, TX

Newly Board Certified
Shawn Griffin received his BCOP

Carolyn Brooke Adams received her BCOP

Jenny Ashton received her BCCCP

Courtney Terry received her BCPPS

Aklil Hiruy, PGY-1
Residents and Preceptors Having Fun!

FRC in Tampa, FL