Maurice Alexander, PharmD, BCOP, CPP
Bone Marrow Transplant

Dr. Alexander attended UNC for undergrad and received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. He completed his PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 in Hematology/Oncology at UNC Hospitals. Dr. Alexander practices in the Stem Cell Transplant outpatient clinic and enjoys precepting students and residents in this clinic. His professional interests include stem cell transplant, cellular and immunotherapy, malignant and benign hematology, and practice development. His wife, Brianna, is also a UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy graduate and is a Clinical Specialist in Internal Medicine at Duke University Hospital. He is a proud tarheel and, outside of work, enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing basketball, traveling, and working out.

Lindsey Amerine, PharmD, MS, BCPS
Assistant Director of Pharmacy

Dr. Amerine received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy and Masters degree/PGY2 Residency in Health System Pharmacy Administration from the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and UNC Medical Center. Dr. Amerine serves as the Assistant Director of Pharmacy for Hematology/Oncology Service Line, Infusion Services, Clinical Services, and Investigational Drug Services. She is an active member of ASHP and HOPA. Her personal interests include spending time with her husband, traveling, working out, and cheering for Nebraska football and UNC basketball.

Jessica Auten, PharmD, BCPS
Inpatient Malignant Hematology (Teaching Service)

Dr. Auten attended UNC for undergrad and received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Hematology/Oncology Specialty Pharmacy Residency at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond, VA. Dr. Auten practices in malignant hematology and precepts students and residents on the inpatient malignant hematology teaching service. Dr. Auten's primary interests include hematologic malignancies, immunotherapy, patient education, and infectious diseases. Her husband, Chad, is also a UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy graduate. Outside of pharmacy, Dr. Auten enjoys spending time with her friends and family, traveling, trying new restaurants, and spoiling her four-legged, gray, fluffy son/cat, Simba!

Jill Bates, PharmD, MS, BCOP
Ambulatory Lymphoma and Myeloma

Dr. Bates is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in malignant hematology at the UNC Medical Center and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Education at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She received her Master of Science in Biochemistry and Biophysics from Northern Illinois University and her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She completed a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency and PGY2 specialty residency in hematology/oncology at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Bates’ practice and research interests focus on educational research (including patient education) and optimizing medication use in a malignant hematology population. She is the proud mother of Alex and Payton. In her free time, Dr. Bates enjoys telling people about the best city in the world, Chicago, running, gardening and cheering on Da Bears!
Preceptors

Cassidy Beach, PharmD, BCOP, BCPS, CPP
Ambulatory Pediatric Oncology

Dr. Beach is a Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist Practitioner at UNC Medical Center and precepts students and residents in clinic. Dr. Beach received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, TX and PGY2 Hematology/Oncology Specialty Pharmacy Residency at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. Dr. Beach’s primary interests include relapsed leukemia, neuroblastoma, supportive care management and patient education. Outside of the hospital, she enjoys trying new restaurants, craft cocktails and cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals!

Jenna Bognaski, PharmD
Inpatient Pediatric Oncology

Dr. Bognaski is a Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/Stem Cell Transplant Clinical Pharmacist at UNC Medical Center and precepts students and residents for the pediatric inpatient service. Dr. Bognaski received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in Ann Arbor, MI. She completed her PGY1 pediatric-focused residency at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN. Dr. Bognaski's primary interests include leukemias, optimization of supportive care, and patient/family education. Outside of work, she loves the Michigan Wolverines, football, hockey, and golden retrievers.

Sheh-Li Chen, PharmD, BCOP
Benign Hematology

Dr. Chen has settled in North Carolina after departing from tropical Malaysia. She received her Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) from the National University of Singapore, and then proceeded to sunny Florida, where she received her PharmD from the University of Florida. She completed her oncology specialty residency at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. She is now the clinical pharmacy specialist in benign hematology, and the coordinator of the clotting factor stewardship program. Her interest is in the care of patients with hemophilia and von Willebrand disease, and the management of venous thromboembolism (you’d notice she does not go far without the coagulation cascade in her hands), and she is not called the ‘Factor Gestapo’ for nothing. Her practice was recently highlighted as a 2013 ASHP Best Practice Awardee. Her personal interest is reading, and she will be able to tell you where to get GREAT Chinese food in the triangle area!

Stephen Clark, PharmD, BCOP
Inpatient Malignant Hematology (APP Service)

Dr. Clark is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in malignant hematology at the UNC Medical Center. He completed a PGY2 Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Residency at Georgia Regents Medical Center and the University of Georgia in 2013. He completed his PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota, FL and his PharmD at the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy. His research interests include supportive cancer care and practice model/pharmacy services implementation. A full list of his publications can be found at Google Scholar. His wife Bethany is a ballet instructor but now thanks to him knows the fine details of residency recruitment and the mechanism of action of rasburicase. Dr. Clark’s hobbies include reading (often to his two sons), ultimate frisbee, cooking, and mentoring middle and high school students.

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Preceptors

Brian Crandell, PharmD, BCOP, CPP
Ambulatory Oncology (Hillsborough)

Brian Crandell is a Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner at the UNC – Hillsborough Campus. Dr. Crandell received his PharmD at the University of Arizona School of Pharmacy. He completed his PGY1 at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, TN, and his PGY2 Hematology/Oncology residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, CO. Dr. Crandell previously coordinated a clinical pathways program, and has an interest in the ongoing debate over what value is in cancer. Dr. Crandell is also the pharmacy co-chair of the UNC Chemotherapy Policy Advisory Committee. In his spare time, Dr. Crandell enjoys spending time with his family, watching football, and visiting national parks.

Daniel Crona, PharmD, PhD
Ambulatory Genitourinary Malignancies

Dr. Crona is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in genitourinary malignancies at the North Carolina Cancer Hospital, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pharmacotherapy and Experimental Therapeutics at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy (ESOP) with a laboratory at UNC’s Genetic Medicine Building, and is a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. He received his Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the UNC ESOP. Dr. Crona also completed an NIH-funded post-doctoral research fellowship in clinical pharmacology through a collaborative training program at UNC ESOP, Duke University, and the Hammer Institute for Drug Safety Sciences. His translational research program focuses on how genetic variations can lead to differences in the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of therapeutic treatments used in oncology/hematology, and how interindividual differences in clinical pharmacology measures can affect survival and drug toxicity phenotypes. He is particularly interested in tyrosine kinase inhibitors, antibody drug conjugates and immunotherapies. His personal interests include running, biking, snowboarding (when in Colorado), cheering on the Denver Broncos and Manchester United, and spending time with his lovely wife (Lana) and two dogs (Danger and Sweet Dee).

Aimee Faso, PharmD, BCOP, CPP
Ambulatory Breast & GI Malignancies

Aimee Faso is a Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner at the North Carolina Cancer Hospital (NCCCH). She received her masters degree in physiological psychology from Ohio University. After graduate school, she was employed in the pharmaceutical industry where she worked as a project manager and a quality assurance coordinator. She then received her Doctorate of Pharmacy from the University of Florida and completed her pharmacy practice residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. After completing her residency, she worked as a clinical pharmacist in medical oncology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock and then at Shands Jacksonville Medical Center before joining the University of North Carolina Hospitals. Dr. Faso worked in the outpatient infusion clinic of the NCCH providing chemotherapy education to patients receiving treatment prior to moving into her current role in the Breast and GI Clinics.

Michelle Gardiner, PharmD, BCOP, CPP
Ambulatory Infusion Clinic

Michelle Gardiner received her pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina (UNC) Eshelman School of Pharmacy in Chapel Hill. She is a board certified oncology pharmacist and a clinical pharmacist practitioner. She is a clinical pharmacist in the Adult Oncology Infusion Clinic at the North Carolina Cancer Hospital in Chapel Hill.
Meredith Keisler, PharmD, CPP
Ambulatory Supportive Care

Dr. Keisler is a Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner at UNC Medical Center where she precepts students and residents in the Supportive Care clinic. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. Dr. Keisler received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Hematology/Oncology Specialty Pharmacy Residency at UNC Medical Center. Her clinical interests include malignant pain management, head and neck cancers, survivorship, and palliative care. In her free time, she enjoys dinner parties with friends, bon fires in her backyard, and spending time with her husband and new baby girl.

Katherine P. Morgan, PharmD, CPP
Inpatient Medical Oncology

Dr. Morgan is a Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist Practitioner at UNC Medical Center and precepts students and residents on the medical oncology service. Dr. Morgan received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Hematology/Oncology Specialty Pharmacy Residency at UNC Medical Center. Dr. Morgan’s primary interests include solid tumor malignancies, benign hematology, patient education, infectious diseases and supportive care. Outside of pharmacy, Dr. Morgan enjoys photography, cooking and trying new cuisine.

Benyam Muluneh, PharmD, BCOP, CPP
Ambulatory Leukemia

Dr. Muluneh received his PharmD from UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and completed his PGY1 and PGY2 in Hematology/Oncology at UNC Hospitals. He serves as an integral part of the hematologic malignancy clinic team through providing supportive care, anticoagulation, antibiotic prophylaxis, as well as assisting with transitions of care. Benyam is originally from Ethiopia and has a high level of interest in international health. He is very active in his church and his lovely wife Mimi is currently a pediatric medical resident at UNC Hospitals. Benyam and Mimi are the proud parents of baby boy Lukas, who was born in November. Benyam is also a big Tarheel fan!

Amber Proctor, PharmD, BCOP
Ambulatory Thoracic Malignancies

Dr. Proctor is a Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner in the Thoracic Oncology clinics at UNC. Dr. Proctor participates in the care of patients with head and neck, lung, melanoma, and sarcoma malignancies. Dr. Proctor graduated from the University of Colorado with bachelor's degrees in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She then spent two years doing bench research for a drug development company in Colorado, but soon got lonely in the lab. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy in Aurora, CO and then traveled to Chapel Hill, NC to pursue a PGY1 residency at UNC Medical Center. She stayed on to complete a PGY2 Hematology/Oncology specialty residency at UNC after appreciating all the program had to offer. Dr. Proctor currently has a shared position between UNC Medical Center and the UNC ESOP, where she coordinates two Hematology/Oncology courses in the PharmD curriculum. Her interests include solid malignancies, pharmacogenomics, translational research, and patient education. In her free time she likes to cook, hike, ride horses, and cheer on the Denver Broncos.
Preceptors

Jon Ptachcinski PharmD, MA, BCPS
Bone Marrow Transplant

Dr. Ptachcinski is a clinical pharmacist practitioner in inpatient and outpatient bone marrow transplant at UNC Medical Center. Dr. Ptachcinski received his undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Pittsburgh and his doctor of pharmacy at Duquesne University. He completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at Norton Healthcare in Louisville, Kentucky and a PGY-2 hematology/oncology residency at the University of North Carolina Medical Center. Dr. Ptachcinski co-precepts both inpatient and outpatient bone marrow transplant rotations for students and residents. In his spare time, Dr. Ptachcinski enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, competing in triathlons, and rooting for all Pittsburgh sports teams.

Kamakshi Rao, PharmD, BCOP, CPP, FASHP
Clinical Manager, Pharmacy Residency Programs
Ambulatory Bone Marrow Transplant

Dr. Rao is a BMT Clinical Specialist at UNC Medical Center, with a practice site in the Outpatient Stem Cell Transplant Clinics. She also serves as Clinical Manager over pharmacy residency training programs at UNC. She graduated from Rutgers University College of Pharmacy, then completed a PGY1 residency at Virginia Commonwealth University and a 2-year Oncology/Clinical Research Fellowship at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Prior to coming to UNC in 2005, Dr. Rao was an Oncology Clinical Specialist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rao also has a background in global health, and has been involved with projects that have taken two PGY2 oncology residents to different parts of Africa to set up and develop oncology pharmacy services. Outside of work, she enjoys all things musical, being a violinist and a pianist, and enjoys outdoor activities, rooting for the UNC Basketball teams, and time well spent with her husband, family, and friends.

J. Ryan Shaw, PharmD, BCPS, BCOP
Inpatient Bone Marrow Transplant

Dr. Shaw is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Bone Marrow Transplant at UNC Medical Center. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Washington then completed his PGY-1 residency at MultiCare Health System in Tacoma, WA and his PGY-2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency at Duke University Hospital. He spent 4 additional years at Duke working inpatient oncology where he developed specific interest in malignant hematology and bone marrow transplant. Growing up in the Pacific Northwest he loves all things Seattle including strong coffee, the Seahawks, and the occasional rainy day.

John Valgus, PharmD, MHA, BCOP, CPP
Clinical Manager, Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Service Line

John Valgus is the Clinical Manager of Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Services at UNC Medical Center. He is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at UNC ESOP, and the UNC Schools of Medicine and Nursing. He is also a member of the UNC Center for Pharmacogenomics and Individualized Therapy. Dr. Valgus received his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He completed his pharmacy practice and hematology/oncology residencies at UNC Hospitals and Clinics and completed a fellowship in clinical pharmacogenetics at GSK. He received his MHA from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Dr Valgus served as the Residency Program Director for the Hematology/Oncology Residency from 2004 through 2016. His research and practice interests focus on achieving quality initiatives in oncology and the implementation of personalized medicine. He is the preceptor for the Hematology/Oncology Management Rotation. His personal interests include spending quality time with his wife and three daughters, enjoying the outdoors, and cheering for the Tarheels, Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies.

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