UHealth Pharmacy – Mission & Vision

Our Mission
The mission of the department of pharmacy services is to deliver the highest-level pharmaceutical services through safe medication practices, innovative research, and compassionate patient care.

Our Vision
- World-side leader in pharmaceutical standards and services
- Optimization of drug therapy and clinical outcomes
- Cultivate an environment that fosters professional growth and integrity
- Quality programs in pharmacy education and research

Marlene Delavalle, PharmD, BCPS
Pharmacy Clinical Manager
PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director

Dr. Marlene Delavalle earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL in 2010. She went on to complete a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency and a PGY-2 specializing in critical care residency at Baptist Hospital of Miami.

Upon completion of her residencies, Dr. Delavalle began working at the University of Miami Hospital as the Critical Care Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator, and became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) in 2012. In 2014, Dr. Delavalle was promoted to Pharmacy Clinical Manger at University of Miami Hospital.
Blanca Rivera, RPh, CPh, MPharm, MBA
Executive Director of Pharmacy Services for UHealth
Rotation Offered: Administration

Blanca Rivera earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree from Nova Southeastern College of Pharmacy and went on to complete her Masters of Science degree in Pharmacoeconomics from the University of Florida, and Masters of Business Administration degree from Stetson University. She is a Clinical Affiliate Professor for Nova Southeastern College of Pharmacy. Blanca was the Director of Pharmacy Services of University of Miami Hospital/Cedars Medical Center from 2002 – 2011 before transiting to her current role as Executive Director of Pharmacy Services for UHealth in 2011.

Blanca has assisted the University of Miami Hospital transition from a community hospital to a university-based health system by providing the vision of a comprehensive and progressive pharmacy department in both operations and clinical services. She manages and plans for ongoing growth of the department, and supports innovation and cost-effective improvement efforts as they relate to quality of service rendered to patients.

Serafin Gonzalez, PharmD
Director of Pharmacy Services,
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Rotation Offered: Ophthalmology/Compounding

Dr. Serafin Gonzalez is the Director of Pharmacy Services at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Miller School Of Medicine in Miami, Florida. He received his doctoral degree in Pharmacy from Nova Southeastern University and worked as a Clinical Pharmacist at Doctors’ Hospital in
Coral Gables prior to joining Bascom Palmer in 1999. A specialist in ophthalmic compounding, he was the first to compound bevacizumab for intraocular injection and his protocol is currently used worldwide.

Christina Vargas, PharmD, BCPS, MBA  
Assistant Director of Pharmacy,  
University of Miami Hospital  
Rotation offered: Internal Medicine

Dr. Christina Vargas earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Nova Southeastern University in 2008. Upon graduation, she completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at the Miami VA and, in 2009, joined the University of Miami Hospital as the antimicrobial stewardship program pharmacy clinical coordinator. In 2010, she earned her Masters of Business Administration degree from Nova Southeastern University, became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS), and received her certification in antimicrobial stewardship. In 2011, Dr. Vargas was promoted to interim Clinical Pharmacy Manager, and in 2012 promoted to Assistant Director of Pharmacy.

Jumana Ashy, PharmD  
Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator, Pediatric Oncology  
Rotation Offered: Pediatric Oncology

Dr. Jumana Ashy earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Purdue University in 2003. In 2009, she joined Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer treatment center as a pharmacist and, once completed in 2012,
Dr. Ashy transitioned into the clinical pediatric pharmacist position for the newly built pediatric hematology oncology clinic at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Treatment Center, known as Alex's Place.

Dr. Ashy was involved in the setup of the oncology clinic by writing policies and procedures. With the help of the oncologists, ARNPS, and fellow pharmacists, she was able to successfully incorporate all the chemotherapy treatment plans that were to be utilized by the clinic into the Intellidose system.

Melissa Marshall, PharmD, BCPS
Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator, Diabetes Care
Rotation Offered: Internal Medicine/Diabetes Management

Dr. Melissa Marshall earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida, Gainesville in 2006. After a short run at a community pharmacy, she transitioned to a clinical staff pharmacist position at the University of Miami Hospital in 2007. Since starting at UMH, she has developed training programs for new staff members as well as a sterile compounding competencies for USP 797 compliance, improved the process of drug shortage management and communication, has been a part of various patient safety and education initiatives, and actively participates in the precepting of pharmacy students.

In 2009, Dr. Marshall became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) and in 2012 she accepted the position of Diabetes Care Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator. Her main goals are to revive the multidisciplinary Diabetes Management Committee, to create inpatient and perioperative guidelines in order to reduce the incidence of hypoglycemia, and improve the rate of normoglycemia in our inpatients.

Daphne O'Hara, PharmD
Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator,
Adult Stem Cell Transplant
Rotation Offered: Adult Stem Cell Transplant

Dr. Daphne O'Hara earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from West Virginia University in 2011. She completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency and PGY-2 hematology-oncology residency at Indiana University Health System in 2012 and 2013. Dr. O'Hara began her current position with the Stem Cell Transplant team at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center in September 2014. She works closely with physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and nurses to optimize patient care during the stem cell transplant process.
Dr. Marissa Tysiak earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island in 2009. She then went on to complete a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, West Virginia in 2010, and a PGY-2 specializing in antimicrobial stewardship and infectious diseases at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine in 2011.

Dr. Tysiak joined the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) as Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator at University of Miami Hospital in August 2013.

Dr. Amber Verdell received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Tennessee. She completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and a PGY-2 Nutrition Support residency at University of Arizona Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona.

Dr. Verdell's interests include drug-nutrient interactions, micronutrients, and parenteral nutrition safety.
Mark Walsh, PharmD, BCOP  
Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator,  
Hematology/Oncology  
Rotation Offered: Hematology/Oncology

Dr. Mark Walsh earned his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the University of Rhode Island in 2006. He then went on to complete a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency with the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center in 2008, and a PGY-2 specializing in hematology and oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (affiliated with the University at Buffalo, State University of New York) in 2009. Next, Dr. Walsh completed a 2 year Translational Oncology and Drug Development Fellowship from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2011.

Dr. Walsh started in his current role at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center in August 2013. He is a Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP) as of 2012.

Eric Scott Zetka, PharmD  
Clinical Pharmacist, Research  
Rotation offered: Research

Dr. Eric Scott Zetka received his BS/BA in molecular biology and biochemistry from the University of Texas – Austin before going on to earn his BPharm from the University of Texas – Austin and PharmD from the University of Florida.

Dr. Zetka’s work experience includes time as an HIV clinic pharmacist, AIDS Clinical Trial Group pharmacist, Research Coordinator for Expanded Access Program, and Investigational Drug Service
Dr. Zetka now holds the position of Clinical Research Pharmacist with UHealth for oncology, HIV, pediatric, and neurology clinical trials, and serves as full voting board member of Institutional Review Board B (IRB-B) and Protocol Review Committee (PRC).

Josephine Tolbert
Senior Administrative Assistant to
Executive Director of Pharmacy Services

Josephine A. Tolbert earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education from Bethune Cookman College. She has continued her professional growth through Continuing Education and Graduate studies at the University Of Miami School Of Business.

Currently, Josie serves as the Senior Administrative Assistant for the University of Miami UHealth Pharmacy Services, joining the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1994. She is instrumental in managing the non-clinical day to day operations of the department, offering skillful communication, knowledge of clinical work flows, with a proven ability to manage projects and teams of diverse personnel, working under time constraints while meeting critical milestones. She has served as Service Ambassador, and has been involved in a number of team building committees to include Service Excellence and Process Improvement.