

ACCP Clinical Administration PRN Officer Spotlight

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Current position within Clinical Administration PRN:

CADM PRN Chair

What was the route you took to get to where you are today?

Upon completion of residency at Duke University Medical Center, I worked as a critical care pharmacist at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Hospitals and later at Mission Health System in Asheville, North Carolina. I became a preceptor and a shared faculty member with UNC early in my career. I was fortunate enough to practice as a Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner (CPP) in the neurotrauma ICU starting in 2001, and this allowed me to initiate, modify and monitor medications for our patients and provide overall therapeutic optimization. I served as an extender for the trauma physicians, and I'm convinced that my leadership skills grew exponentially in that role, with that degree of responsibility for patients and for the students and residents training with me in that model. I am forever grateful for the collaborative spirit and trust offered by the trauma surgeons. After UNC opened its satellite campus in Asheville in 2011, I moved into an administrative role with the pharmacy school and the health system. I continue to evolve and expand my leadership skills in that position today. Thus, I've been blessed with good luck and impeccable timing many times over, and some of my colleagues would say that my perseverance borders on stubbornness!

Please provide a brief description of your current position.

My current position is Pharmacy Manager of Education and Research at Mission Health System, Asheville, North Carolina and Associate Professor of Clinical Education with the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. In that position I oversee pharmacy student and resident education within our six-hospital health system. Our main campus, Mission Hospital, is a 750-bed tertiary care center and Level 2 trauma center with over 100,000 emergency department visits per year. We provide over 200 student months of experiential training experiences per year for UNC and have ten pharmacy residents which include a combination of PGY1 and PGY2 programs in acute care, ambulatory care, health system pharmacy administration and emergency medicine. I also oversee our clinical research programs and Investigational Drug Service and currently manage the Mission/UNC shared faculty as well as the Critical Care and Metabolic Support Service pharmacy teams. Lastly, I serve as Chair of the Protocols and Procedures Committee for P&T which oversees close to 175 medication specific protocols for the health system.

What do you like most about your current job?

The people and my teams! I work with an incredibly talented group of people who are innovative, creative, adaptable and extremely hard working. They inspire and lead me every day!

Why did you join ACCP?

I've been a full member of ACCP since 1995 and became a fellow in 2010. Early in my career as a critical care pharmacist, I found ACCP to be robust with talented clinicians and researchers who "pushed the envelope," wrote challenging position papers, advanced pharmacy practice and paved the way for many of us to follow. I appreciate the earlier generations of clinical pharmacists and am humbled by what they accomplished for us. Many of those were members and leaders of ACCP. Today I appreciate the networking opportunities, scholarly pursuits and high quality educational programming at the Annual Meeting each year!

Reason for joining the Clinical Administration PRN and what keeps you involved?

I joined the CADM PRN when I transitioned from being a critical care pharmacist into an administrative role. Although I had been a clinical pharmacist for many years, I was "changing careers" and wanted to learn from more experienced leaders. Even though the PRN has over 500 members, it's felt like a smaller community within ACCP. I've made invaluable contacts and new friendships within the PRN. Many of us leaders face similar challenges and can learn from each other, whether it be through a virtual round table, at the Annual Meeting educational session or through the list serve. I feel more confident as a pharmacy leader knowing I can pick up the phone and call my colleague in San Diego, Milwaukee, New Haven, Phoenix, Denver and many other places to get advice or opinions for others. The CADM PRN has made this possible.

What do you like to do for fun outside of work/fun fact about yourself?

I enjoy living with my family in Asheville and in the mountains of Western North Carolina. In Asheville we have easy access to an amazing array of outdoor activities, great food, music and artists on early corner. I also enjoy being a Suzuki violin parent for our younger daughter and traveling. My most recent trip was to visit our oldest daughter in Poland while she was studying abroad with her chemical engineering program.

What advice would you give a student or current resident interested in pursuing pharmacy administration?

Actively listen, learn from the mistakes of others and stay connected with your mentors and role models. Pharmacy is a small world, and networking is invaluable!