Frequently Asked Questions from Applicants

1. What rotations are available, how are they selected, is scheduling flexible?
    - Every resident is required to complete the following learning experiences
        - Administration
        - Anticoagulation Clinic (part of Am Care block)
        - Internal Medicine
        - Medication Management (part of Am Care block)
        - Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT)
    - Residents select either two PACT blocks or two required inpatient experiences
    - Residents select three electives
    - RPD meets with residents at the beginning of the year and every quarter to review the schedule; changes made based on resident preference

2. How much patient interaction will residents be exposed to while on ambulatory care rotations?
    - Patient interaction is the hallmark of ambulatory care
    - COVID-19 has limited our F2F interactions; number of clinic appointments is increasing
    - F2F, telemedicine, video to home and phone calls are used to interact with patients
    - Eighty percent of a resident's time is spent performing direct patient care activities

3. What is the staffing schedule, responsibilities, and support? How many hours, on call at all?
    - Staffing schedule is determined by the residents
    - Each resident will work the same number of weekends and evenings
        - ~13 weekends: Saturday and Sunday for 8.5 hours each day
        - ~28 evenings: one evening a week for 3 hours
    - Residents will always have a clinical pharmacist(s) working with them on the weekends
    - Residents are NOT on call
    - Staffing is part of the residency program. Extra hours are not available for additional pay

4. What is the support system for the research project, how often do projects get published? How are they selected. Is this a large area of focus in this program?
    - We have a project advisory board who helps to guide projects to completion
        - Residents start meeting with the project advisory board in July
        - Meetings are weekly for the first several months
    - There is a list of projects to select from; own ideas are welcome
    - We do put a lot of focus and dedicate resources to the residency project and MUE
    - We average 1-2 published projects a year

5. What are the expectations and opportunities of PEPPR?
    - PEPPR is our teaching program affiliated with the University of Iowa COP
    - Residents attend a workshop in August and select activities to participate in
        - One large group (lecture style) activity
        - One small group (lab) activity
        - Can select more if desired
    - Educational sessions are held once a month with required attendance (F2F or virtual)
    - Outside of the classroom residents assist in precepting students on rotations, but will not be the primary preceptor for a student
    - All residents are responsible for completing a drug class review, CE program and pharmacy-wide journal club

6. What type of autonomy do ICVA pharmacists have?
    - In the VA Health Care System clinical pharmacists have their own scope of practice
        - Can prescribe medications and order labs
        - Without physician co-signature
    - VA Health Care System does not allow PGY-1 residents their own scope of practice
        - Can work under preceptors' scope of practice
        - Can order medications and labs under preceptors' name for signature
    - Each clinical pharmacist has a unique scope of practice based on their area of expertise

7. How are residents evaluated? (how frequently is feedback given and from whom)
    - PharmAcademic is the formal website
        - Preceptor evaluations at the end of each learning experience
        - Residents evaluate each learning experience and preceptor(s)
    - Residents receive feedback on their projects and presentations throughout the year
    - VA Health Care System requires preceptors to co-sign all PGY-1 resident notes
        - Feedback on recommendations and monitoring plans
        - Feedback on notes
    - Every quarter RPD meets individually with each resident
        - Reviews most recent evaluations
        - Determines if changes in the schedule need to be made

8. Where have residents (over the past five years) gone after completing residency?
    - Positions directly out of PGY-1 residency training
        - Inpatient Positions: 33%
        - Outpatient/Am Care Position: 43%
        - PGY-2: 24%
    - Currently working in the VA Health Care System: 80%

9. What is there to do in the area when not at work?
    - Iowa City is home to the University of Iowa.
    - Coralville and North Liberty are the immediate surrounding areas
    - https://youtu.be/uuQTbEq9fa4
    - https://youtu.be/nXZd_eew4d4

10. How is transportation to work/parking handled? Is there adequate housing in the area?
    - Parking onsite at the ICVA is reserved for veterans
    - Employees are allowed to park onsite during the weekends
    - We encourage residents to secure housing on a bus route
    - There are multiple busing options; all stop behind VA for easy access
        - University Cambus (no charge)
        - Iowa City busing routes
        - Coralville busing routes
    - Discounted busing passes are provided for VA employees