



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE RMC

# InPharmation

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## Introducing Our New PGY-1 Residents

### Laura Carrell, PharmD

Although I am originally from Baton Rouge, I spent the last four years in Alabama attending pharmacy school at Auburn University. I first graduated from LSU, so I'm probably the only person you will see wearing an LSU t-shirt and an Auburn sweatshirt at the same time.



I have known that I wanted to be a pharmacist since my senior year of high school when I fell in love with chemistry and biology and knew that I wanted the opportunity to directly care for patients. However, my interests within the field of pharmacy have varied throughout pharmacy school and I am excited for the opportunity to learn even more about the profession during my year here as a resident. Currently, I am interested in transitions of care and academia because both of those allow for direct teaching of either patients or students.

Outside of the pharmacy world, I enjoy cooking (especially baking) and all things outdoors. When the weather cools down (and sometimes even when it's hot!), you can find me hiking, playing ultimate frisbee, or reading a book in my hammock.

### Kristin Howell, PharmD

I was born and raised in Baton Rouge, LA and have always loved my hometown. I knew that no matter where life took me I was going to settle down here. From a very young age I was always certain



that I was going to be a teacher. However, after taking my first chemistry class (and surprisingly doing well) I decided to pursue something in that field. On a random day of my junior year in college, I googled my options in chemistry and I found a toxicology and pharmacy program at ULM in Monroe, LA. I decided to book a tour with my parents and we decided that it was the place I was meant to be and I transferred from LSU that next Spring. I finished my Bachelors in Toxicology and then began pharmacy school shortly after. This story about me is one of my favorites because I never thought in a million years I would move to another city without any family and friends and pursue such a career, but here I am! It always surprises me to see the plan God has for me unfold.

The day my parents helped me moved into my dorm, my mom said don't marry a boy from Monroe because she wanted me to come back home. Well (sorry, Mom!), during my time in pharmacy school I met my now husband, who was a year ahead of me in pharmacy school, but fortunately he was very willing to come back home with me to BR. We bought a house in Tara neighborhood earlier this year and are now raising our fur-baby, Franny.

Some random things about myself: I absolutely love traveling, and my favorite trip I ever took was a 12 day Mediterranean cruise after I graduated college with my grandmother. There's hardly anything on Netflix, and TV in general that I haven't seen. It's a real problem! I'm a bit goofy and tend to say random things, especially during awkward silences. Also, I wouldn't trade time with family and friends for anything in the world. After completing residency, I'm hoping to start a family and stay on board with OLOL and continue my clinical

career possibly at the new Children's Hospital being built!

### Danielle Thomas, PharmD

I was born and raised in the small city of Akron where we spell O-H-I-O every chance we get! After finishing pharmacy school at Northeast Ohio Medical University, I decided to take my talents elsewhere. Baton Rouge welcomed me with open arms and I am excited to be starting the next phase of my career at OLOL.



My pharmacy interests include pediatrics, critical care, and academia. I also enjoy community service and working with the underserved. Someone once told me to appreciate my voice and to be a voice for the voiceless. Ever since then I've made my life motto to "Lift As I Climb." At every point in my life I can think of someone who has held my hand or encouraged me to achieve my dreams. I intend to do the same for others.

Outside of school and work, I enjoy playing basketball, scratching items off my bucket list and scrapbooking my vacations. Fun Fact: I've been dreaming of going to Africa ever since I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In May 2016, that dream came true! My guilty pleasure is buying all things Doc McStuffins. There may or may not be a slight obsession. =D

Favorite scripture: "She is clothed with strength and dignity and laughs without fear of the future." Proverbs 31:25

## Welcome aboard!

## IV Levothyroxine

IV levothyroxine should be reserved for myxedema patients, LOPA patients, or if a patient is NPO for a prolonged period. If IV levothyroxine is indicated, please confirm correct dosing conversion by verifying patient's home dose (the IV dose should be 50% of the PO dose).

## IV to PO Policy Update

- Voriconazole - added to the Automatic Pharmacy Conversion (100% Bioavailability)
- TMP-SMX (Bactrim) – Added to Opportunities for Step-Down Therapy (Must contact MD to obtain order)
- Cefdinir - Added to Opportunities for Step-Down Therapy (Must contact MD to obtain order)

## Formulary deletion

- Dyrenium (triamterent)

## Fentanyl Patches

- Fentanyl patches are contraindicated in opioid naïve patients due to the risk of respiratory depression
- Additionally, the onset of action (~12-24 hours) is not appropriate for post-surgical pain management.
- Fentanyl patches should only be used for patients with chronic pain. Please continue to be vigilant in assessing the appropriateness of these orders.

## Regulatory

### Recent FDA Drug Approvals

- **Lifitegrast** is a lymphocyte function-associated antigen 1 antagonist used to treat dry eye disease.
- **Cobimetinib (Cotellic)** is an inhibitor of the mitogen- activated extracellular (MEK) pathway that is very potent and selectively inhibits MEK1 and MEK2 irreversibly to treat unresectable or metastatic melanoma (**with BRAF V600E or V600K mutations**).
- **Calcifediol** is a Vitamin D analog used for the treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism in adults with stage 3 or 4 CKD and serum total 25-OH vitamin D levels < 30 ng/ml.
- **Gallium Ga 68 Dotatate** is a new radiopharmaceutical for PET scanning.
- **Sofosbuvir and Velpatasvir** is a polymerase inhibitor for hepatitis C used in patients with chronic hepatitis C.

### FDA Med Safety Alert

The FDA and CDC recommend that health care professionals not use any docusate sodium liquid product. The agency confirmed the product has been contaminated with Burkholderia cepacia, a bacteria linked to an outbreak in five states.

## Dates to Remember

Please join the Healthy Lives Crew in the Auditorium on Fridays in August from 1-2pm. They will be reviewing the following topics each session. Sign up in HealthStream to reserve your spot.

**August 5<sup>th</sup>:** Creating and Managing a Budget

**August 12<sup>th</sup>:** Getting out of Debt and Saving

**August 19<sup>th</sup>:** Establishing and Maintaining

## ISMP 2016-2017 Best Practice

**ISMP Best Practice 11:** When compounding sterile preparations, perform an independent verifications to ensure that proper ingredients (medications and diluents) are added, including confirmation of the proper amount (volume) of each ingredient prior to its addition to the final container.

**Rationale:** ISMP has reported previously serious compounding errors resulting in deaths due to wrong concentration/strength or wrong product/diluent. Completing preproduction checks rather than proxy check such as "syringe pull-back method" will help pharmacists identify and prevent errors prior to dispensing.

### Recommended Prevention Methods:

- Eliminate use of proxy methods of verification (e.g., the "syringe pull-back method," checking a label rather than actual ingredients).
- Except in emergencies, perform this verification in all locations including patient care units.
- At minimum, perform this verification for high alert medications (chemo and TPNs), pediatrics/neonatal preparations, pharmacy prepared source/bulk containers and products given via high-risk routes (intrathecal, epidural, intraocular)
- Use technology to assist in the verification process to augment manual processes

## Safety Opportunities

Please continue to practice "critical drip stewardship." Isoproterenol (Isuprel®) is a lifesaving medication that has recently increased in price. This medication may be given in critical care areas including ECU. No clinical approval is required prior to dispensing medication, however please practice "stewardship" by ensuring that the nurse is ready to hang a new bag if you are receiving a second request!

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