Biopharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program

KGI.EDU/FELLOWSHIPS
Dear Fellowship Candidates,

On behalf of the KGI School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, I would like to thank you for your interest in the KGI Biopharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program.

We are proud of the Fellowship Program we have built over the last few years and for the high standards of excellence that our sponsors and fellows continuously exceed. KGI truly differentiates itself through the focus we have on aligning ourselves with cutting-edge companies. Our highly innovative sponsors are at the forefront of research and discovery across multiple therapeutic areas and technologies. The rapid development and leadership of our fellows upon graduating from the program is a testament to the level of commitment provided by both the sponsor companies and KGI.

Our goal is to provide dynamic opportunities and mentorship to talented PharmD graduates transitioning into the biopharmaceutical and biotechnology space. We recognize the inherent value of the education and training of individuals who have earned a Doctorate in Pharmacy and strive to ensure each fellow succeeds in making a meaningful difference in the lives of patients.

Please review this brochure to familiarize yourself with what the program has to offer.

We hold our recruitment activities at both the annual ASHP Midyear PPS (Personal Placement Service) and throughout the year whenever organizations have a business need to recruit fellows.

Sincerely Yours,

[Image of Bernard Tyrrell, BSc, RPh, MBA]

Bernard Tyrrell, BSc, RPh, MBA
Founded in 2018, the Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) Biopharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program aims to provide exceptional biopharmaceutical industry training for Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) graduates with a broad exposure to the areas fundamental to drug discovery, development, and commercialization. This program will prepare fellows for a career in the pharmaceutical industry by focusing on developing a deep understanding of how companies operate. Each position affords significant experience in a corporate setting, enabling fellows to hone their business and clinical skills. The program also aims to foster professional development; provide intensive, hands-on training; and expose fellows to a variety of industry and academia-based opportunities.
What is an Industry Fellowship?

Program Objectives
A structured one or two-year work experience designed to provide hands-on training in functions fundamental to bringing innovative medical products through development and into commercialization.

An industry-based training program for individuals with a doctorate in pharmacy to further their experience in the biopharmaceutical industry through work experience and clinical research.

Fellows will spend 90 percent of their time on duties specific to the industry site and 10 percent of time on academic development activities with the KGI School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. All fellows will be eligible for adjunct faculty status.

Fellowship Mission
To develop strong, confident, and competent biopharmaceutical industry leaders through the following:

- Professional development to promote learning agility, scholarship, enhance leadership, critical thinking, and team-building skills
- Networking to establish both personal and professional relationships among colleagues, alumni, industry professionals, and healthcare providers
- Community service to contribute and remain connected within the community

Academic Components
KGI provides a graduate academic environment to guide and support fellows towards building a successful career in the biopharmaceutical industry. KGI recognizes that solving practical, real world challenges—for physicians and pharmacists, as well as industry executives and entrepreneurs—requires close teamwork, creative and critical-thinking skills, and cross-functional fluency. KGI’s interdisciplinary curricula integrate technology and management in an innovative and practical way. As a result, our students graduate with a thorough understanding of the results-oriented, collaborative culture in which scientists, doctors, engineers, and managers operate.

Education and Experience
A successful candidate must be a PharmD graduate from an ACPE accredited institution. Substantial background knowledge in a related field is a plus. All candidates must be authorized to work in the United States.
Our fellowship program is the gateway for postgraduate PharmDs to experience and explore the biopharmaceutical industry’s diverse working environment. It is both exciting and challenging. Graduates of fellowship programs are highly desirable for their technical expertise, their interpersonal skills, and their understanding of how the business of drug discovery, development, and commercialization occurs on both a domestic and global scale.
Existing KGI Fellowships
One and Two-Year Fellowships

Medical Affairs
The Medical Affairs Fellowships will develop and communicate appropriate, quality, and timely responses to Medical Affairs requests from healthcare providers and patients. The fellowships will support Medical Affairs by providing product and drug information expertise on a wide range of initiatives, including review of medical resources, staffing pipeline booth at scientific meetings and conferences, and consulting on cross-functional activities. Fellows will develop strong literature searching skills and critically appraise published and unpublished clinical data regarding marketed and investigational products and/or therapeutic areas of interest. Finally, the fellowships will support the overall operational function of the medical affairs department by participating in process improvement initiatives and focusing on patient needs.

Medical Information
The Medical Information Fellowship provides an opportunity to learn the skills and experiences necessary to excel as a pharmacist in scientific communication, a key function in any biopharmaceutical company. The core responsibility of Medical Information is to generate and communicate clinical and scientific data as well as engage in scientific discussions with key stakeholders, including healthcare providers, patients, and payers. By doing so, the overarching Medical Affairs division actively supports the development and delivery of therapies to patients with a high unmet need.

Risk Management-Sourcing (Clinical Supply)
The Risk Management Sourcing (Supply Chain) Fellowship provides an opportunity to learn the skills and experiences necessary to excel as a pharmacist in the seamless supply of pharmaceutical product to customers, a key activity in any biopharmaceutical company. Business continuity planning and management of risk are a key focus for the operations and warehouse teams. With the procurement, production, and distribution activities, managing risk in a supply chain is critical to enable the seamless supply of product to customers. The chosen candidate will help establish the supply chain risk management program, and enable new technologies to proactively mitigate risks from suppliers.
Health Economics Outcome Research

The Health Economics and Outcomes Research/Real World Evidence (HECOR/RWE) Fellowship is a U.S. focused post-doctoral program that will provide a holistic experience within a biopharmaceutical company. The fellow will be responsible for scientifically supporting the real-world disease registry, driving execution of specific HECOR/RWE tactics/studies through until dissemination at key scientific congresses, helping update of the Budget Impact Model as needed, and reviewing economic inputs into the AMCP dossier. The fellow will also have the opportunity to work cross-functionally with leaders across the medical affairs and other functional areas based on their interests.

Medical Communication

The fellow will join the Medical Communications team and develop the necessary skills to facilitate scientific communication with a goal of ensuring the final messages are in alignment with the company’s strategic plan. Fellows will engage in congress and publication planning, medical review, and development of internal/external resources for the company. Through this fellowship, the fellow will gain valuable experience on a global Medical Communications team and be prepared to support products throughout all stages of development. The fellow’s execution of Medical Communications responsibilities will assist the Medical Affairs group in bringing therapies to patients who need them most.
Fellowship Companies and Fellows

**AbbVie**

AbbVie is a global, research-driven biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies for some of the world’s most complex and critical conditions. The company’s mission is to use its expertise, dedication to people, and unique approach to innovation to markedly improve treatments across four primary therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, virology, and neuroscience. In more than 75 countries, AbbVie employees are working every day to advance health solutions for people around the world.

— Rob Pearson, AbbVie Fellowship Director

“AbbVie is committed to enhancing the scientific acumen of the biopharmaceutical industry, and as such, recognizes the privilege that we have of engaging and training future medical affairs leaders. With a singular focus on the patient, we know that with a diverse and talented workforce we will be able to address the therapeutic needs of those that we have the privilege of serving. We are seeking fellowship candidates who are driven to make a difference in all that they do.”

— Maggie Szakacs, AbbVie Fellow

“I am both humbled and grateful to be a part of the AbbVie-KGI Fellowship Program. Fellows are actively involved in research, project management, leadership, cross-functional collaboration, and much more. I get to work alongside some of the most seasoned professionals in Medical Affairs, which I am confident will assist in a productive and successful career in the pharmaceutical industry.”

**Gilead Sciences**

Gilead Sciences is a biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, and commercializes innovative therapeutics in areas of unmet medical need. The company’s mission is to advance the care of patients suffering from life-threatening diseases worldwide. Gilead has operations in more than 35 countries worldwide. Gilead’s product portfolio includes complete treatment regimens for HIV and chronic hepatitis C virus infection. Additionally, the strategic acquisitions of Kite Pharma, Inc. and Cell Design Labs, Inc. moved Gilead into a leadership position in the field of cell therapy.

— Brian Hill, Gilead Sciences Fellowship Director

“At the core of the Gilead culture is innovative science that saves lives every day. The fellowship opportunity at Gilead will provide our candidate exposure to the sourcing of material we use in the manufacture of our drug products that has a vital impact on the patients we serve every day. Additionally, they will gain insight on the manufacture, distribution, and commercialization of our products across the many markets we serve.”

— Ricardo Arechiga, Gilead Sciences Fellow

“The KGI-Gilead Fellowship is providing me a unique experience in the world of supply chain. My role is to proactively assess risk with our suppliers to prevent drug shortages in the long run. To accomplish this, I am exploring vulnerabilities in our supply chains and working with new tools to prepare for and manage these disruptions. The teams at KGI and Gilead are second to none and continue to provide me with guidance every step of the way. I am confident this program will equip me with the skills required to succeed in the 21st century.”
AveXis, a Novartis Company

AveXis, a Novartis company, is the world’s leading gene therapy company, redefining the possibilities for patients and families affected by life-threatening genetic diseases through our innovative gene therapy platform. Founded in 2013 and headquartered in Bannockburn, IL, the goal of AveXis’ cutting-edge science is to address the underlying, genetic root cause of diseases. AveXis pioneered foundational research, establishing AAV9 as an ideal vector for gene transfer in diseases affecting the central nervous system, laying the groundwork to build a best-in-class, transformational gene therapy pipeline. AveXis received its first U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval in May 2019 for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). AveXis is also developing therapies for other genetic diseases, including Rett syndrome and a genetic form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) SOD1. Be a part of a team reimagining the treatment of rare and devastating genetic diseases with transformational gene therapies.

– Aaron Novack,
  Head of Medical Communications,
  AveXis Fellowship Director

“VeeXis is an incredibly exciting and fast paced environment where we have the opportunity to make real change in the lives of patients and we aim to break barriers with lifesaving gene therapies.”

– Omar Dabbous,
  Vice President, HEOR & RWE,
  AveXis Fellowship Director

– Mary Na,
  AveXis Fellowship Director

“The Medical Information Fellowship at AveXis offers fellows the unique opportunity to enhance their scientific knowledge and communication skills while gaining valuable insights into the biopharmaceutical industry. Fellows will collaborate cross-functionally to contribute to improving the lives of patients.”

– Liz Kim,
  AveXis Fellowship Director

“The Medical Information Fellowship at AveXis offers fellows the unique opportunity to enhance their scientific knowledge and communication skills while gaining valuable insights into the biopharmaceutical industry. Fellows will collaborate cross-functionally to contribute to improving the lives of patients.”

– Shilpa Chatlani,
  Associate Director, Medical Communications,
  AveXis Fellowship Director

“AveXis is focused on developing and delivering transformational gene therapies for patients and families devastated by rare and life-threatening neurological genetic diseases, including a genetic form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Rett syndrome, and spinal muscular atrophy. The Medical Communications Fellowship at AveXis will offer fellows an excellent opportunity to gain pharmaceutical industry experience and expand their clinical knowledge through active participation on the Medical Communications team. The fellow will have the opportunity to obtain an understanding of the role of Medical Communications in the biopharmaceutical industry; develop clinical data analysis skills through preparation of abstracts, interpretation, and communication skills through; and gain the ability to recognize unmet patient needs and educational gaps for health care professionals. Medical Communications fellow will learn to blend clinical knowledge, art, and writing to effectively develop and deliver content to be shared with other health care professionals and ultimately improve patient care. Additionally, the fellow will have the opportunity to gain experience through strategic interactions with key cross-functional team members, such as Non-Clinical Development, Marketing, R&D, Clinical Development, Medical Information, Regulatory Affairs, and Medical Affairs.”

“AveXis is a company making innovative advances to bring gene therapy treatment to patients with rare neurological diseases. It is a tremendous place to learn, grow, and understand the true value we bring to patients.”
Amy Choi, AveXis Fellow

“The fellowship at AveXis has provided me unique, hands-on experiences. Daily I am stimulated intellectually, and I appreciate the wealth of knowledge and support I get from the dedicated individuals I work with every day. I have a unique opportunity to learn about gene therapy and its impact on the patients who live with a rare disease called spinal muscular atrophy. I am thankful to be a fellow at AveXis/KGI. I am able to form valuable relationships and gain critical skills that are essential for a successful career in medical affairs.”

Anish Patel, AveXis Fellow

“The KGI-AveXis fellowship has provided me an array of opportunities for professional development and collaboration with the Medical Affairs team to evaluate and communicate the clinical, humanistic, and economic impact of innovative therapies. The program fosters growth by encouraging the fellow to embrace a leadership role, build strong relationships, and communicate effectively, all of which are vital for developing future leaders in industry. I make a positive impact by spearheading and supporting projects as well as contributing to the academic institution and the company in preparation for a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry.”

Chris Myers, AveXis Fellow

“The KGI-AveXis Medical Communications Fellowship is an exceptional opportunity for post-graduate development in the pharmaceutical industry. Being at AveXis has immersed me in rare diseases and gene therapy. I’ve had the chance to further the dissemination of scientific content, collaborate with other functional groups, and work hands-on with innovative therapies. The value of the patient-centered culture cannot be overstated and AveXis does a great job of ensuring this is consistent throughout the company. Overall, the position provides a well-rounded experience which truly prepares me to make an impact on a Medical Affairs team.”

Pharmacyclics

Pharmacyclics-AbbVie is committed to the development and commercialization of novel therapies intended to improve the quality and duration of life and to resolve serious unmet medical needs for cancer patients. Pharmacyclics is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AbbVie, a global, research-based biopharmaceutical company. Oncology is a key therapeutic area for AbbVie, with a portfolio consisting of two marketed products and a pipeline containing multiple promising new molecules that are being studied in more than 200 clinical trials for over 20 different types of cancer. More than 1,200 Pharmacyclics and AbbVie research scientists, clinicians, marketing, operations, and corporate professionals work in the San Francisco Bay Area. They combine their expertise in immuno-oncology, stem cells, and cell-signaling with their knowledge of bispecific antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates, and covalent-inhibitor technologies to discover and develop novel cancer treatments. Together, we are striving to outsmart cancer.

Roula Qaqish, Head of Medical Affairs, Pharmacyclics Fellowship Director

“The fellowship program is an important growth opportunity for Postdoctoral Pharmacy Students who are passionate about Oncology. This opportunity offers the fellows a non-traditional hands-on learning experience in the biopharmaceutical industry. Our teams work closely together offering the fellows an opportunity to seek and gain experience in different areas in the Medical Affairs (MA) department. They learn to work in a highly matrixed environment where they collaborate with other inter-department and cross-functional colleagues outside of MA at Pharmacyclics.”
— Tony Lin,
Head of Scientific Communications,
Knowledge Management and Medical Information,
Pharmacyclics Fellowship Preceptor

“At Pharmacyclics, our approach is to be Patient-First, Science-Based, and Employee Driven. I am proud of the fellowship program here which offers our candidates comprehensive and practical hands-on biopharma training across the core capabilities of medical affairs. We seek to foster an environment of learning and networking that will offer the fellow an enduring network and grow exceptional skills to enable their future success as medical affairs professionals. We are seeking candidates that are excited to embark on this journey as we strive to make a lasting impact in the lives of patients through the work that we do every day.”

— Reethi Iyengar,
Director, Health Economics and Outcomes Research and Real World Evidence,
Pharmacyclics Fellowship Preceptor

“At Pharmacyclics, we strive to help our patients rediscover the ‘Magic of Normal’ by continually improving the standards of care. Developing key talent is essential towards this goal. With the overarching aim of gaining hands-on experience in the functioning of a biopharmaceutical company in general and medical affairs in particular, the fellowship opportunity here will enable our candidates to envision possibilities where others see problems. The focus on Health Economics and Outcomes Research will enhance their understanding of the challenges associated in translating trial learnings to real world practice and will provide them with skills to successfully bridge this gap. This is a great fit for candidates who are as passionate as us towards creating a better tomorrow for patients by relentlessly working towards improving the standards of care.”

— Kaylee Miu,
Pharmacyclics Fellow

“The Pharmacyclic’s Medical Affairs team is an incredibly high energy and high performing team. With a passion for mentorship, leadership provides fellows with a wide breadth of experiences upfront in order to help the fellow discover and develop an expertise. Being able to work on medical strategies at concept and seeing it through to the level of healthcare providers and patients in the field greatly reflects the strong science-based, patient-first, employee-driven model of care at the company. The fellowship continues to challenge me beyond my PharmD training to strategically apply my clinical experience and understanding to various platforms. I would highly encourage all candidates with a strong interest in hematology-oncology to consider applying!”

— Philip Lee,
Pharmacyclics Fellow

“This fellowship has provided me with hands-on experience and opportunities that will prepare me to become a professional within the pharmaceutical industry and specifically in health economics and outcomes research. My mentors at Pharmacyclics are truly invested in my professional and personal development and have provided me with endless guidance and support. I am truly excited to make a difference in patients’ lives while working at a biopharmaceutical company that feels like a family.”
Profusa

Profusa is a fast-growing biotech company that is pioneering tissue-integrating biosensors for continuous monitoring of body chemistries. The sensors consist of biocompatible hydrogels placed into the subcutaneous tissue in order to provide insights into the overall health status of individuals. Profusa’s first clinical offering, the Lumee Oxygen Platform, has been CE marked since 2016 and is designed to report reliable tissue oxygen changes. The focus of current clinical applications of the device is in Peripheral Artery Disease. Profusa continues to move forward in the development of multi-analyte platforms, including a glucose monitoring system. This approach enables Profusa to incorporate real-time disease monitoring and management as part of comprehensive digital health applications.

Kerstin Rebrin, Profusa Fellowship Director

“As a small and fast-growing company, Profusa provides an environment for hands-on involvement in the areas of medical device development and vigilance, clinical study design and conduct, medical evidence generation, regulatory strategy, and health economic considerations. This setting is ideal for PharmD fellows who possess grit, are interested in being involved in a diversity of tasks, and can work effectively in an agile, innovative, and collaborative environment.”

Chloe Nguyen, Profusa Fellow

“The KGI-Profusa Fellowship has given me the opportunity to be in the exciting and fast-changing pace of medical device development in the field of tissue-integrating biosensors. My focus at Profusa is on the glucose project, in early development, which aims to realize a miniature, injectable, and biocompatible hydrogel that can sense subcutaneous interstitial glucose for patients with diabetes. The fellowship program allows me to receive direct guidance and support from highly qualified, dedicated, and inspiring colleagues. Being in the Medical Affairs/Clinical Development team of Profusa, I am working directly with key opinion leaders and investigators who are engaged in the clinical study design strategy and study conduct. I am working on clinical protocols and authoring various documents (investigator brochures, clinical evaluation reports, etc.). I am thrilled to be a part of this fellowship to contribute my infinitesimal part in supporting the company and shaping the medical device landscape, as well as learn and grow professionally to prepare for a successful career in industry.”

Taylor Noriega, Profusa Fellow

“The fellowship experience with Profusa has allowed me to work with an incredibly dedicated team on a rich variety of projects. My work focuses on the Lumee™ Oxygen Platform, a device used to monitor interstitial oxygen concentration. This device can potentially benefit patients where information regarding tissue oxygen levels are crucial, notably in Peripheral Artery Disease and Critical Limb Ischemia. Currently, I am involved with work related to post-market clinical trials, as well as medical input for the commercial development of the iOS application for the device. Throughout the process, Profusa has fostered learning opportunities through conferences and connections with key opinion leaders to further our disease knowledge and define medical needs. Within this company, there is an “all hands-on deck” approach to solving problems and overcoming challenges that creates a sense of community, unlike anything I have experienced before. This fellowship is what budding professionals dream about to kick-start their career, and I could not be happier.”
Past Fellows—2018

Jason Mao, AveXis Fellow
Medical Information Manager, Medical Information, Astellas Pharma US

Edward Stoia, AbbVie Fellow
Medical Affairs Medical Science Liaison, Ferring Pharmaceuticals

Fellowship Program Growth

Current Fellowship Locations
- AveXis: Bannockburn, IL
- AbbVie: North Chicago, IL
- Gilead: La Verne, CA
- Pharmacyclics: Sunnyvale, CA
- Profusa: Emeryville, CA
Application Process

Candidates must submit all the following application materials to the person identified in the respective job description. We will accept applications from October 24 to December 2, 2019 for the ASHP PPS process. Off-Cycle recruitment will specify the application periods allowed.

• Letter of Intent
• Updated curriculum vitae (CV)
• Three (3) letters of recommendation
• Unofficial pharmacy school transcripts

Requirements

A successful candidate must be a PharmD graduate from an ACPE accredited institution. Substantial background knowledge in specific fellowships is a plus. All candidates must have the right to work in the United States. The fellowship will provide comprehensive practical hands-on training and foster an environment of learning with a leading biopharmaceutical company. The fellow will be paired with leaders in the respective functional areas. The collaborative environment will offer the fellow an enduring network and exposure to grow exceptional skills.

Recruitment

Two methods:
• American Society of Healthcare Pharmacists Midyear Meeting | December 8-12, 2019
  Personalized Placement Service (PPS) midyear.ashp.org/Register
• Off-Cycle Process
  Ad hoc recruitment when sponsors need to bring on fellows to their organization. Candidates are notified through their schools of pharmacy and through the IPhO Fellow Match.

Contact Information

Bernard Tyrrell
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KGI Graduate Institute (KGI) was founded in 1997 as the first higher education institution in the United States dedicated exclusively to education and research related to the applied life sciences. KGI offers innovative postgraduate degrees and certificates that integrate life and health sciences, business, pharmacy, engineering, and genetics, with a focus on industry projects, hands-on industry experiences, and team collaborations. A member of the Claremont Colleges, KGI employs an entrepreneurial approach and industry connections that provide pathways for students to become leaders within healthcare and the applied life sciences. KGI consists of four schools: Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences, School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the Minerva Schools at KGI.

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