

December 10, 2022

Michelle Chu, PharmD, BCACP, APh
Residency Program Director
University of Southern California School of Pharmacy
1985 Zonal Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Dear Dr. Chu,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in the University of Southern California (USC) School of Pharmacy PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program in ambulatory care. After speaking with Dr. Eva Escobedo at the Southern California Residency showcase and attending the ASHP Residency showcase, I recognized that the objectives of the program align with my immediate goals as a resident to mature into a competent clinical pharmacist. The USC residency program will allow me to achieve my long-term goals of becoming a mentor, preceptor, and faculty member at a school of pharmacy, contributing to future pharmacy generations as a board-certified ambulatory care pharmacist. I am confident this program will provide me the opportunity to enhance my clinical skills in all patient care settings, contribute to pharmacy education and research, and grow as a pharmacy leader.

My commitment to providing the highest quality of care to improve health outcomes aligns with the goals USC sets for their residents. Similar to the direct impact the PGY-1 residents make on uninsured patients, I provided quality care to underprivileged patients with limited healthcare access during my medical mission to Lebanon. During my ambulatory care rotation at the AltaMed medical clinic, I provided recommendations and served as a resource in an interprofessional team by answering drug information questions posed by physicians and nurse practitioners. I was able to empathize and build a rapport with my patients, who expressed their gratitude for my ability to empower them to prioritize their health and take ownership of their chronic health conditions. In addition to my rotation experience, I performed patient specific comprehensive medication review calls, patient education, and disease state consultations at SinfoniaRx Medication Management. My positive attitude and caring personality, as described by my patients during these experiences, are qualities that will contribute to my success as a resident at USC.

Having multiple leadership positions while participating in various extracurricular activities throughout an accelerated, three-year pharmacy program at Chapman University is a reflection of my exceptional time management and communication skills. As Vice President of our CSHP/ASHP student chapter, I collaborated with the Professional Development Chair to find outreach programs for our student members to participate in, emphasizing preventative care to the Orange County community. My efforts to educate and spread awareness were rewarded with the 2020 ASHP Outstanding Professional Development Project Award and the CSHP Community Service Award. As Director of Membership of our student chapter, I implemented innovative ideas by increasing student membership by 25% from previous years. I hope to continue to make an impact and grow as a pharmacy leader through the leadership opportunities offered during the USC residency program.

I believe that my clinical knowledge and ability to multi-task will make me a strong resident at USC. In addition to placing first in the 2019 CSHP Seminar Quiz Bowl Competition, I made interventions during my clinical APPE rotations, such as recommending antibiotic de-escalation, antiretroviral therapy initiation, and renal dose adjustment of medications. My willingness to learn will prove to be a strength as I explore unique core rotations and electives at USC in the Keck Travel Clinic, Keck Cystic Fibrosis Clinic, and Keck Pain Clinic. Also, I have educated P1 students on how to present professionally at health fairs, created a patient counseling video, and developed a mentorship program in collaboration with other student pharmacy organizations on campus. I plan to continue to engage young aspiring pharmacists by mentoring, precepting, and teaching through the teaching certificate program offered by USC to its residents.

My dedication to providing the highest quality of care, leadership experience, clinical skills, and motivation to continue learning are qualities I possess that will allow me to thrive as a resident at USC. I hope to continue to enhance my knowledge and strengthen my skills through learning from and working alongside the most passionate and caring preceptors. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to having the opportunity to speak with you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Applicant Name
PharmD Candidate, year
Chapman University