

## **New Mexico VA HCS Resident Bios**

### **PGY1 Pharmacy Residents**



**Kevin Wegener**

Kevin was born and raised in Albuquerque and finished his undergraduate studies and pharmacy school at the University of New Mexico. Moving forward in his career, he knows that he enjoys working in the inpatient setting with an interdisciplinary health care team. The New Mexico VA was a clear choice, as pharmacy service is deeply integrated into patient care. He also enjoys the diverse selection of electives offered, which have allowed him to focus on his interests while still exploring new areas of pharmacy practice he has not yet experienced. In his free time, Kevin likes to spend time with family here in ABQ, grab food (especially sushi) with friends, and play video games.



**Roopali Sharma**

Roopali is from Austin, TX and went to pharmacy school at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. After this year, she is hoping to move on to a PGY2 in ambulatory care and then continue her career in that field, providing excellent care to her patients while precepting students and residents. The New Mexico VA stood out to her because of the unique elective rotations offered, allowing her to explore areas of pharmacy practice that she may not have been exposed to before. So far she has enjoyed learning from brilliant preceptors who practice at the top of their license within the VA. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her dog, Luna, watch a lot of sports (go Niners!), cook new recipes, read, and attend (now virtual) spin class.



**Jeffrey Shaffer**

Jeff was born and raised in LA and went to UC San Francisco for pharmacy school. His short term career goals are to stay within the VA system. Long term, he is as of yet undecided and is looking to keep his options open. The New Mexico VA stood out to Jeff as it provides an array of offered rotations, knowing that he would get a balanced and diverse residency experience. He also wanted to experience pharmacy practice in a different state, as this would broaden his perspective. In his free time, he likes to explore the town and try new places to eat, quickly falling in love with New Mexico's green chile. He is also a lifelong Dodgers fan and has enjoyed watching them win the 2020 World Series.



**Tiffany Nguyen**

Tiffany is originally from Phoenix, AZ and went to the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. Her long term career goal is to complete a PGY2 in psychiatric pharmacy, become a psychiatric pharmacist, and eventually precept students and residents. She chose the New Mexico VA because this program allows a resident to hone in on their interests with the wide variety of elective and core rotation options. Additionally, she really enjoys practicing within the VA system due to its robust integration of health services that contribute to serving our veterans. Something fun about Tiffany is that she loves to travel and take photos! She tries to travel to a different country every year (pre-COVID).

## PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Resident



**Marissa Chacón**

Marissa Chacón is originally from a small town in northern New Mexico called Peñasco. She completed her undergraduate studies and pharmacy school at the University of New Mexico and graduated in 2017. She began her career as a pharmacist at Presbyterian Hospital, where she staffed for two years. She completed her PGY1 in June 2020 at Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She chose the New Mexico VA for PGY2 because the program allows residents to explore different areas of psychiatry while also providing rotations that align with their specific interests. After she completes her PGY2, she hopes to work in the ambulatory care setting, caring for patients with psychiatric comorbidities and managing other chronic disease states. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, spending time with her family, boxing, camping, and working out.