The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation’s (BMSF) approach to addressing health inequities consists of strengthening healthcare worker capacity, integrating medical care and community-based supportive services and mobilizing communities in the fight against disease. BMSF engages partners in government, academia and civil society in programs to develop and test innovative approaches to improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations around the world.

Since 1999, the BMS Foundation’s SECURE THE FUTURE initiative has been working with partners in Africa to provide care and support for communities affected by HIV, tuberculosis, and other co-morbid conditions. In 2016, with an increasing global effort on non-communicable diseases, SECURE THE FUTURE® has evolved to focus on cancer in areas of HIV prevalence including lung cancer, female cancers and pediatric cancer.

In 2015, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation launched the Specialty Care for Vulnerable Populations initiative to address inequities in access to and utilization of specialty care services in the U.S. The goal of this national initiative is to catalyze sustainable improvement and expansion of specialty care service delivery in safety net settings to achieve more optimal and equitable outcomes for the people living with or at high risk for cancers and cardiovascular diseases such as stroke, atrial fibrillation, and venous thromboembolism.

BMSF supports a number of other programs in the United States focusing on disparity populations, access to care, and community-based care models. The Public Health Residency program was created in 2009 as a collaborative effort between the Rutgers Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP), and BMSF to address HIV/AIDS in Africa and the US. Now with the expanded focus on cancer and cardiovascular diseases in the United States, this unique PGY-2 pharmacy residency will prepare residents as Public Health practitioners with leadership skills and a variety of global and domestic experiences in resource-constrained settings.
This 12-month residency is offered in conjunction with Rutgers Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships Program of EMSOP and BMSF. The primary goal of the program is to improve health outcomes and decrease health disparities through a systems approach for non-communicable diseases.

The Pharm.D. Resident will spend approximately six months in southern Africa as part of the BMSF team with the SECURE THE FUTURE program to help build capacity and provide training to partner organizations.

Activities offer a wide range of opportunities that build upon a pharmacy background and further develop diverse skill-sets. Activities depend on the current needs of projects and partner organizations and may include:

- Training of pharmacy and other healthcare professionals in disease state management and pharmacotherapy
- Developing protocols and proposals leveraging the management of cancer into existing HIV/AIDS platforms
- Engaging community members and organizations to help improve health outcomes
- Project implementation and management at field sites

The Resident will then complete the remainder of the program in Lawrence Township, New Jersey, working with the Specialty Care for Vulnerable Populations and other BMSF initiatives that address health inequities in the United States. Activities depend on the current needs of grant making programs and partner organizations and may include:

- Researching issues for the development of requests for proposal
- Developing evaluation indicators
- Provide expert review and technical assistance for pharmacy related issues
- Connecting project goals with policy and advocacy advancement efforts
- Reviewing grantee reports

As adjunct faculty at the EMSOP, there will be opportunities for the Resident to enhance his/her experience by collaborating with faculty through scholarship, publication, teaching, and maintenance of clinical skills. The Resident will also be invited to participate in activities offered through the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program (http://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu), including participation in the bi-monthly Professional Development Series, and will have access to a large network of Fellowship alumni.

Priscilla Ko, Public Health Resident 2014-2015 (second from left) with the pharmacy department of Baylor International Pediatrics AIDS Initiative in Mbabne, eSwatini.

Ishmael Qawiy, Public Health Resident 2015-2016 (fifth from right) with members from the Mathiwos Wondu Ethiopian Cancer Society (MWECS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Rutgers will be recruiting at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

To pre-schedule an interview at Midyear, please contact:

Evelyn R. Hermes-DeSantis, Pharm.D., BCPS
Clinical Professor, Pharmacy Practice & Administration
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Email: ehermesd@pharmacy.rutgers.edu

Please note that interested individuals should electronically submit a letter of intent, a curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation after interviewing at Midyear to Evelyn R. Hermes-DeSantis, Pharm.D., BCPS and Priscilla Ko, Pharm.D.

Application materials will be accepted beginning December 18, 2018 until the deadline of January 11, 2019.

For more information:

- BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB FOUNDATION programs:
  http://www.bms.com/foundation/
- SPECIALTY CARE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS program:
  http://www.bms.com/foundation/specialty-care/Pages/default.aspx

Applicants are encouraged to provide references from mentors in global experiences or resource limited settings.

A letter of intent 1-2 pages addressing your interest in global/public health and long term plans.

Candidates must be willing and able to relocate to southern Africa for 6 months.

Application materials will be accepted beginning December 18, 2018 until the deadline of January 11, 2019. Please send these to Evelyn R. Hermes-DeSantis, Pharm.D., BCPS and Priscilla Ko, Pharm.D.

Rutgers is an Equal Opportunity Employer