



USC School  
of Pharmacy

# USC | Kite

## Fellowship Program

2023 - 2024



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## About Kite

At Kite, we are focused on the cure. Our singular focus is on cell therapy — the use of genetically modified immune cells programmed to target tumors — which we believe has the potential to change the way cancer is treated.

Through our focused efforts and important industry and academic partnerships we have been able to advance our industry-leading pipeline of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) and T cell receptor (TCR) product candidates with the goal of treating both hematological cancers and solid tumors.



**Christi Shaw joined Kite in 2019 as Chief Executive Officer. She sits on the Gilead Leadership Team and is responsible for all cell therapy operations around the world.**

**"We are dedicated to pursuing cell therapy to fundamentally change health outcomes in cancer, and to ensuring medicines are made available to all patients who may be helped by them, regardless of location or cost."**  
— Christi Shaw, Chief Executive Officer, Kite

Founded in 2009 as a pioneer in cell therapy research, Kite's leadership position in the immuno-oncology space was solidified with our research and development agreement with the National Cancer Institute in 2012 and when the commercial manufacturing site opened in El Segundo in 2016. Since our acquisition by biopharma leader Gilead Sciences in October 2017, our combined strength has accelerated the advancement of our pipeline, including the launch of YESCARTA® (axicabtagene ciloleucel), and has expanded the impact of our strategic partnerships.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted accelerated approval to TECARTUS™ (brexucabtagene autoleucel, formerly KTE-X19), the first and only approved CAR T cell therapy for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) and relapsed or refractory B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

As an independent operating company since 2019, we prioritize innovative R&D with the full resources, capabilities, and trust of Gilead.

### Therapeutic Areas

Hematological Malignancies, Solid Tumors, Allogeneic Technology

# USC School of Pharmacy



## About USC

The USC School of Pharmacy is the only private pharmacy school on a major health sciences campus, which includes the Keck School of Medicine, Keck Hospital of USC and the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and is immediately adjacent to the LAC+USC Medical Center, one of the largest public hospitals in the country. Ranked by US News and World Report as a top ten pharmacy school nationwide and #1 among private schools, the USC School of Pharmacy is recognized for its century-old reputation for innovation in pharmaceutical education, clinical practice, and research. The school uniquely spans the entire spectrum of pharmaceutical development and clinical care – from drug discovery to regulatory approaches that promote safety and innovation, from delivery of patient care services to evaluating the impact of care on patient outcomes and costs. With a history of “firsts” that includes the nation’s first Pharm.D. program (1950), first clinical clerkship program (1968), first Ph.D. in pharmaceutical economics (1990), and first professional doctorate in regulatory science (2008), the school holds an essential leadership role in the safe, efficient, and optimal use of medication therapy that can save lives and improve the human condition.

## USC School of Pharmacy Fellows 2022-2023



Valerie Acuna, PharmD  
Clinical Pharmacology  
AbbVie, Inc.



Bahador Aghakoochek, PharmD  
Medical Affairs  
Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.



Faith Awoniyi, PharmD  
Medical Affairs  
Gilead Sciences, Inc.



Camille Beniga, PharmD  
Clinical Development  
AbbVie, Inc.



Rashshana Blackwood, PharmD  
Medical-Scientific Information  
Kite Pharma



Lesley Chan, PharmD  
Portfolio Strategy and Project  
Management  
Kite Pharma



Dorian Chen, PharmD  
Clinical Development  
AbbVie, Inc.



Mansour Dughbaj, PhD  
Research Pharmacology  
AbbVie, Inc.



Joanna Ho, PharmD  
Research Pharmacology  
AbbVie, Inc.



Brianna Hoover, PhD  
Research Pharmacology  
AbbVie, Inc.



Diane Kang, PhD  
Research Pharmacology  
AbbVie, Inc.



Christina Khoury, PharmD  
Global Regulatory Affairs  
AbbVie, Inc.



Andrella King, PhD  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
AbbVie, Inc.



Camila Lis, PharmD  
Global Medical Affairs Learning  
& Development  
Gilead Sciences, Inc.



Sara Fouad Mahmoud, PharmD  
Academic Pharmacy  
USC



Avet Manukyan, PharmD  
Medical Affairs  
MannKind Corporation



Tam Nguyen, PharmD  
Clinical Development  
AbbVie, Inc.



Mai Ono, PharmD  
Medical Communication  
Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.



Jenny Park, PhD  
Clinical Pharmacology  
AbbVie, Inc.



Hiral Patel, PharmD  
Medical Information  
Gilead Sciences, Inc.



Justin Pearson, PharmD  
Medical Information  
AbbVie, Inc.



Sabrina Rai, PharmD  
Medical Promotional Review  
Govise, Inc.



Natalie Rhodes, PharmD  
Medical Affairs  
AbbVie, Inc.



Reece Riddle, PharmD  
Research Pharmacology  
AbbVie, Inc.



Paul Singh, PhD  
Immunology  
AbbVie, Inc.



Kaydee Soo, PharmD  
Medical Affairs  
MannKind Corporation



Bryan Stender, PharmD  
Regulatory Affairs  
Neurocrine Biosciences



Nayeary Sutlian, PharmD  
Clinical Development  
Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Lena Tieu, PharmD  
Medical Information  
Gilead Sciences, Inc.



Linda Tsan, PhD  
Medical Affairs  
AbbVie, Inc.



Janel Villamor, PharmD  
Global Regulatory Affairs  
AbbVie, Inc.



## **William C. Gong, Pharm.D., FASHP, FCSHP**

Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy

Director of Fellowship Programs

University of Southern California, School of Pharmacy

William C. Gong is Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Director of Fellowship Programs at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy. Dr. Gong received his Pharm.D. from the University of Southern California and completed his Residency in Clinical Pharmacy at the LAC+USC Medical Center. He is a primary care pharmacy practitioner committed to the education of students for careers in clinical practice and the pharmaceutical industry. He oversees approximately 50 residents and fellows and has developed partnerships within industry to sponsor fellowship programs including Advanced Biotechnologies, AbbVie, Inc, Allergan Plc, Bausch and Lomb, Gilead Sciences, Ista Pharmaceuticals, Kite Pharma, MannKind Corp, and Neurocrine Biosciences.

Dr. Gong is actively involved with multiple professional organizations. He has served on the California Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Board of Directors. On the national level, he has served in various capacities at AMCP, APhA, and ASHP, including Vice-Chair and Chair for the Primary Care Specialty Practice Group of ASHP, as an executive board member of the ASHP Section of Clinical Specialists, ASHP Commission on Therapeutics and as a member of the ASHP Commission on Credentialing. He has published and given numerous presentations on ambulatory care pharmacy practice issues and diabetes care on the national and local level. He is cited in the Congressional Record for Pharmacy Practice Achievements, is a Fellow of the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, and Fellow of the California Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists.

# Medical Information/Scientific Communications Fellowship

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Location: Based at Kite Headquarters in Santa Monica, California

## Fellowship Overview

The University of Southern California School of Pharmacy and Kite, a Gilead Company, are proud to offer a 12-month Medical Information/Scientific Communications Fellowship program designed to provide recent Pharm.D., MD, Ph.D., or equivalent advanced degree graduates an opportunity to learn the skills and experiences to excel in Medical Information and Scientific Communications, key functions in any Medical Affairs organization across the pharmaceutical industry. The fellow will be an integral part of the Global Medical Affairs team and will develop/manage scientific content and respond to requests for medical information about Kite products.

## Fellowship Goal

To provide an opportunity for the fellow to learn the skills necessary for a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry with an emphasis in Medical Information and Scientific Communications.

## Medical Information/Scientific Communications Fellowship Primary Objectives:

### Subject Matter Expertise

- Participate in cell therapy training, with the goal of becoming a subject matter expert throughout the course of the fellowship. Attend scientific meetings to maintain that expertise, participate in session coverage, and staff the Medical Affairs booth.

### Medical Information Content

- Write, update, and review Medical Information content such as standard response letters (SRLs), frequently asked questions (FAQ) documents, and slide decks (if applicable). In addition, the fellow may assist in the creation or maintenance of an AMCP dossier and compendia submissions.

### Respond to Unsolicited Requests for Medical Information

- Coordinate with the Medical Information specialists at Kite's call center to formulate unbiased and scientifically balanced responses to requests for medical information that have been escalated. Escalated requests will be proposed by the fellow and reviewed by the appropriate subject matter experts prior to fulfillment by the call center.

### Scientific Communications Content

- Create high-impact scientific and medical content for field medical use, medical affairs scientific presentations, and scientific booth materials at key congresses.

### Medical Review

- Function as a medical reviewer for Promotional Review Committee, Medical Review Committee, and for Commercial Learning and Development

### Operational Excellence

- Work with the Kite Medical Information and Scientific Communications teams on projects regarding process improvement/development, implementation of new technology, and managing the call center.

### Collaboration

- Collaborate with other departments at Kite to learn the value that Kite Medical Information and Scientific Communications bring to the broader organization.

## Medical Information/Scientific Communications Fellowship Objectives (continued):

### **Compliance**

- Learn and comply with regulations and guidance from various national and global regulatory agencies that govern the pharmaceutical industry.

### **USC Graduate Coursework**

- Complete required graduate coursework at the University of Southern California with the opportunity to complete a Certificate in Regulatory Sciences or Healthcare Decision Analysis.

### **Leadership, Teaching and Career Development**

- Participate in teaching opportunities at the University of Southern California through collaborations with the School of Pharmacy and gain guidance on career advancement at the annual Professional Development and Leadership Retreat.

## **Medical Information/Scientific Communications Fellowship Program Mentors**

### **Sudha Vemuri, Ph.D.**

Senior Director, Global Head of Publications,  
Scientific Communications and Medical Information

**Director, Medical Information/Scientific Communications  
Fellowship Program**



### **Alice Pauner, Pharm.D.**

Associate Director, Medical Information



# Portfolio Strategy and Project Management Fellowship

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Location: Based at Kite Headquarters in Santa Monica, California

## Fellowship Overview

The University of Southern California School of Pharmacy and Kite, a Gilead Company, are proud to offer a 12-month Portfolio Strategy and Project Management Fellowship program designed to provide recent Pharm.D. graduates an opportunity to develop project management skills applicable to pharmaceutical industry and drug development. By working cross-functionally with product teams, product team leaders, project managers, and project team members, Fellows will learn how interdependencies across functions impact product strategy, timelines, budgets, and risks. Most of the Fellows' responsibilities will involve directly supporting product team activities for marketed or pipeline assets.

## Fellowship Goal

To learn the skills necessary to excel in a career in the pharmaceutical industry with a focus on project management.

## Portfolio Strategy and Project Management Fellowship Primary Objectives

**During this one-year fellowship, Fellows will:**

- Develop a solid understanding of the pharmaceutical industry, disease landscapes, and Kite CAR T-cell therapies as innovative cancer treatments.
- Acquire key project management skills that are applicable to the pharmaceutical industry and drug development.
- Apply clinical pharmacy training, oncology therapy area knowledge, and scientific backgrounds to cell therapy development and commercialization.
- Gain exposure to Kite's Clinical Development, Regulatory Affairs, and Commercial areas to develop a fundamental understanding of clinical trial design, literature evaluation, and product strategy's role in leading successful commercialization.
- Organize and manage PS&A and/or product team meetings to ensure efficient and action-oriented operations within established requirements to deliver quality outputs on time and on budget. Liaise with cross-functional/functional stakeholders to execute on cross-functional deliverables and resolve issues.
- Contribute directly to cell therapy cross-functional areas and complete a research project related to cell therapy Portfolio Strategy and Analytics (PS&A).
- Prepare agenda, minutes, and action items for PS&A Projects and/or Product Team Meetings and identify risks and opportunities, implement corrective actions, and execute on the project plan and strategy. Learn and implement best-in-class project management processes and tools/templates such as meeting agendas/minutes, project schedules, Gantt charts, action/decision logs, risk registers, SharePoint site, etc.

## Portfolio Strategy and Project Management Fellowship Objectives (continued):

### **Additional Activities**

- Based on the Fellow's interest and time availability, there is an opportunity to participate in rotations with clinical or commercial departments to gain a comprehensive experience and skills in the pharmaceutical industry.

### **USC Graduate Coursework**

- Complete required graduate coursework at the University of Southern California with the opportunity to complete a Certificate in Regulatory Sciences, Health Care Decision Analysis, or Biopharmaceutical Marketing.

### **Leadership, Teaching and Career Development**

- Participate in teaching opportunities at the University of Southern California through collaborations with the School of Pharmacy and gain guidance on career advancement at the annual Professional Development and Leadership Retreat.

## **Portfolio Strategy and Project Management Fellowship Program Mentor**

### **Michael Lim, Pharm.D., MBA**

Executive Director, Global Portfolio and Program Strategy

**Director, Portfolio Strategy and Project Management Fellowship Program**



## Current Kite Fellows



### **Lesley Chan, Pharm.D.**

Kite Portfolio Strategy and Project Management Fellow 2022-2023  
University of Southern California, Class of 2022

I chose to pursue the Portfolio Strategy and Project Management Fellowship at Kite because I wanted to immerse myself in Kite's innovative environment and build up on the strategies that make this organization the leader in cell therapy. As a Kite fellow, I am one step closer to my goal of becoming a strong female strategic business leader and innovator. I am grateful to be supported by such amazing mentors and content experts who not only offer guidance and facilitate my learning towards a successful career but also continue to fan the flame for innovation and alignment within the organization. My experience at Kite has been nothing short of humbling, exhilarating, and valuable, and I look forward to continuing this adventure with this inspirational team.



### **Rashshana Blackwood, Pharm.D.**

Kite Medical Information/Scientific Communications Fellow 2022-2023  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Pharmacy Residency Class of 2022  
Medical University of South Carolina, Class of 2021

Kite's Medical Information/Scientific Communications fellowship program merged my interest in Medical Affairs with my passion for cell therapy and oncology. I chose Kite to be engaged in cutting-edge oncology therapeutics. As a fellow at Kite, I can deliver patient-centered care on a more global scale. Through developing medical content and responding to medical information request I can contribute to the team's overall goals and deliver high-quality patient care. My mentors are encouraging and supportive, providing career guidance and opportunities to learn, grow and expand my knowledge of pharmaceutical industry.



## Past Kite Fellows



### **Emily Hua, Pharm.D.**

Associate Manager, Medical Information  
Kite Medical Information Fellow 2021-2022  
University of North Carolina, Class of 2021

I chose to pursue a Medical Information fellowship at Kite because I wanted to contribute to patient-centered oncology care by increasing access to information. As a fellow at Kite, I have had the opportunity to make significant contributions to the team and organization early on. I feel fully supported by my mentors who provide me the training and experiences necessary for a successful career in Medical Information. My experience at Kite has been extremely rewarding and I look forward to continuing this journey of advancing cancer therapies with this incredible team.



### **Ali Hasan, Pharm.D.**

Senior Associate, Early Oncology Pipeline Competitive Intelligence & Strategy, Amgen  
Kite Scientific Communications Fellow 2021-2022  
Keck Graduate Institute, Class of 2021

Kite's fellowship program provides an opportunity to experience the company's visionary culture, develop broad Medical Affairs competencies, and work at the forefront of cutting-edge therapeutics for oncology/hematology. Developing content for medical science liaisons and learning the nuances of congress planning has instilled a unique perspective on the Scientific Communications functional role. Reviewing and collaborating on materials with external departments has further provided me with a fundamental understanding of the different skills each division brings to an industry organization. My mentors have been instrumental in my professional development and their engaging approach has smoothed out the learning curve associated with the complex therapeutic landscape and CAR T-cell therapy.



### **Adam Cho, Pharm.D., MS**

Manager, Scientific Communications  
Kite Medical Information Fellow 2020-2021  
University of Southern California, Class of 2020

I chose to pursue the Kite Medical Information fellowship because I wanted to provide information to patients and healthcare providers to help change the way cancers are treated and help improve patient lives. Throughout the fellowship interview process, and even now, I continue to see how patient-centric Kite is as a company. I originally pursued a career in pharmacy to help patients, and at Kite I can do so at a more macro level. My mentors were very supportive and dedicated to my success throughout the fellowship, ensuring that I gained the skills necessary for a successful career in Medical Information.



### **Eric Baehr, Pharm.D.**

Manager, Scientific Communications  
Kite Scientific Communications Fellow 2020-2021  
University of Illinois at Chicago, Class of 2020

The Scientific Communications fellowship program at Kite is aligned with my interests in both cell therapy and oncology. Being an integral part of a team that frequently works cross-functionally with other departments at Kite was a really engaging experience for me. Developing a better understanding of all the moving parts involved in the planning and creation of content for congresses and medical science liaisons gave me unique insight and perspective. The mentorship I received allowed me to jump right into interesting projects that accelerated my learning and contribute to departmental needs.

# The Application

## Requirements

To be admitted to the USC-Kite Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program, you must:

- Have obtained a Pharm.D., MD, Ph.D. or equivalent doctorate degree from an accredited college or university within five years of initial appointment.

## How to Apply

The application process will open available October 1, 2022.

The USC Postdoctoral Fellowship Portal can be accessed online at: <https://provost.sma.usc.edu/prog/fellowship>

You will need to submit the following to USC:

- Email addresses of three references
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume
- Letter of intent (LOI)
- Official professional or graduate school transcripts

In addition to applying through USC, please submit a CV and LOI through the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) Personal Placement Service (PPS) to request a first-round interview.

- Application materials are due to PPS by November 30, 2022
- PPS portal opens October 5

When submitting documents, please submit as a PDF file and use the following naming conventions:

- Last name\_First name\_CV.pdf  
Last name\_First name\_LOI.pdf

## Application Deadline

Final due date for all application documents to USC is December 9, 2022.

Important dates and deadlines will be posted on the USC Fellowship Program page at:

<https://pharmacyschool.usc.edu/programs/fellowship/>

## Interviews

Fellowship interview details are to come and will be posted on the USC Fellowship Program page at:

<https://pharmacyschool.usc.edu/programs/fellowship/>

## Final Interviews

Details regarding final interviews will follow preliminary interviews.



# Additional Information

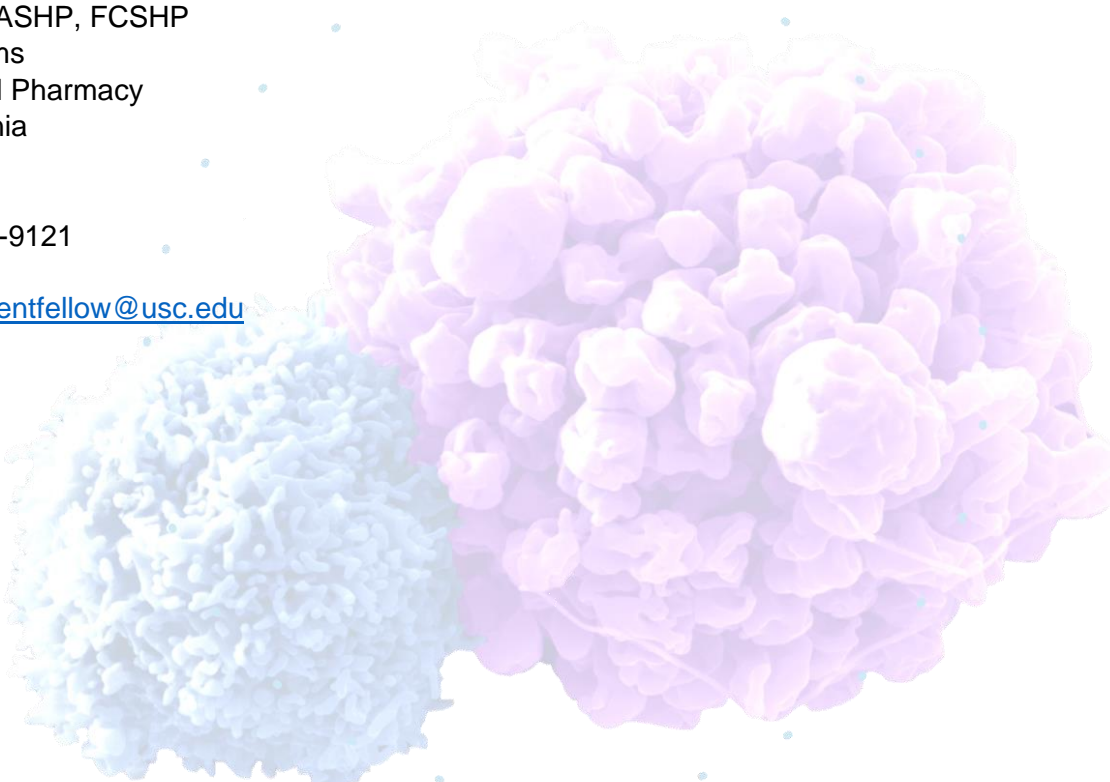
## Webinar

Attend our informative online webinar. Details will be posted on the USC Fellowship Program website when available.

Additional information is available at: <http://pharmacyschool.usc.edu/programs/fellowship>

## For location and times, or any additional information on the program, please contact:

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Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy  
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School of Pharmacy  
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