

ALUMNI PROFILE: DIANNA MUSICK-JONES (RU CHEMISTRY '02)**Describe your current position.**

Currently I serve as an Oncology Clinical Pharmacist. I work at an outpatient cancer infusion clinic where my primary responsibility is to dose and prepare chemotherapy treatments. I also aid the oncologists with monitoring and patient counseling.

Briefly describe the path that led you to your current position after graduating from RU. In what areas of chemistry did you specialize?

While at RU my interests were in the areas of organic chemistry and biochemistry. I decided to pursue pharmacy because it was the perfect way to combine my chemical science interests with human sciences.

After graduating from RU, I attended Campbell University School of Pharmacy in North Carolina where I received my Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. While in pharmacy school I participated in an internship with my current practice. After becoming licensed, I was offered a position as a clinical oncology pharmacist and specialized in chemotherapeutic agents.

In what ways did your RU chemistry degree help you achieve your goals?

My RU chemistry degree provided me with the knowledge I needed to succeed in pharmacy school. Pharmacy students must have a strong background in organic chemistry, kinetics and mathematics. For pharmacy students, the most challenging classes are typically medicinal chemistry, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and biochemistry. However, RU provided me with an excellent knowledge base making the most challenging classes my favorite classes.

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**Do you use chemistry on a daily basis? Describe what you do on a day-to-day basis.**

I use chemistry everyday! Drugs are chemicals and it is pure chemistry to describe how drugs react inside the body. I must also understand the pharmacodynamics and kinetics for each drug. This tells me the time of drug action onset, how long for the body to eliminate the drug, and where the drug is absorbed in the body. I use this information to calculate doses and dosing intervals.

Describe the personal skills that have played an essential role in your present position.

Communication has played the biggest role in my career as a pharmacist. It is paramount that I effectively communicate with my patients. I am responsible for being sure they understand the drug regimen, how it works, which side effects to expect, and to address their concerns.

What advice do you have for those who wish to pursue this career path?

Pharmacy has become a very competitive field. Know your long-term goals and be dedicated to achieving them. Study diligently and take the opportunity to learn all you can. The knowledge you gain from RU will be a valuable building block to your future.