The Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program prepares PharmD graduates to pursue careers in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industries. This specialized training program enables fellows to enhance their professional growth and acquire specific skills through hands-on experience. Participants focus on a specific area of interest, which may include clinical research, regulatory and medical information, or various other areas. Upon successful completion of the RPIF Program, alumni secure positions in many different specialty areas within industry. Over the history of the program, the majority (90%) of RPIF Program alumni were initially employed in the pharmaceutical or biopharmaceutical industry. The majority (75%) of RPIF Program alumni were initially employed in the same core department in which they completed their fellowship program. Most RPIF Program alumni have pursued a career within medical affairs, which is consistent with the core capabilities of a pharmacist.

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The objective of this study is to evaluate the core department in which RPIF Program alumni secure their first full time position and the frequency with which their first position has with their host company.

Methodology

The RPIF utilizes software to maintain an alumni database containing information such as (i) fellowship company and core department (focus area of fellowship), (ii) first position attained after RPIF program completion, and (iii) current employer and title. This data was analyzed to determine the percent age of RPIF Program alumni who are currently working within the pharmaceutical/biopharmaceutical industry and the percentage of RPIF Program alumni who acquired their first position upon program completion within the pharmaceutical/biopharmaceutical industry. The data was also used to determine whether RPIF Program alumni acquired their first position upon program completion and/or current position in the same core department in which they completed their fellowship or initial position. Missing alumni data was collected through an evaluation of online profiles in the LinkedIn professional networking site.

The alumni database contained nearly complete information about RPIF Program alumni who completed the program during 2003-2009 (n=327). However, in order to capture data from 187 RPIF Program alumni who completed the program between 1987-2002 (n=244), a questionnaire was developed and distributed using the Zoonar™ Survey tool. The survey included questions about partner company affiliation, core department, first position attained upon program completion and current position. The majority (90%) of RPIF Program alumni were initially employed in the pharmaceutical or biopharmaceutical industry. The majority (75%) of RPIF Program alumni were initially employed in the same core department in which they completed their fellowship program. Most RPIF Program alumni have pursued a career within medical affairs, which is consistent with the core capabilities of a pharmacist.

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Results

The results of this study indicate that the majority of RPIF Program alumni were initially employed in the same core department in which they completed their fellowship program. Most RPIF Program alumni have pursued a career within medical affairs, which is consistent with the core capabilities of a pharmacist.

Discussion

Most RPIF Program alumni initially stay in the core department they were trained during their fellowship. However, as they progress in their careers they are more likely to change to a different department. The transition of RPIF Program alumni into various departments and roles outside of their core fellowship department demonstrates the RPIF Program’s ability to prepare fellows for multiple roles and responsibilities outside of their core fellowship department. Data from about 100% of 2003-2009 program alumni was used to represent a software and engineering company.

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References