Applicant Analysis of Three Post-Graduate Pharmacist Training Programs within the Pharmaceutical Industry

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BACKGROUND

• As industry-based post-graduate training programs have evolved, the number of pharmacists entering these programs within the pharmaceutical industry has grown. However, little is known about the geographic locations of applicants to these programs.
• Three post graduate training programs, Procter & Gamble Fellowship Program, Rutgers Fellowship Program, and Eli Lilly Visiting Scientist Program retained applicant data from recruitment during 2006-2007.

OBJECTIVE

• The study’s primary objective was to analyze data to identify geographical trends of pharmacist and student pharmacist applicants who applied to at least one of the three specified post-graduate industry based training programs during recruitment in 2006-2007.

METHODS

• A retrospective analysis of demographic and other characteristics of pharmacy applicants to three post-graduate training programs (Procter & Gamble Fellowship Program, Rutgers Fellowship Program, and Eli Lilly Visiting Scientist Program) was conducted for recruitment in 2006-2007.
• A data collection sheet was developed capturing the following information if available:
  - College of pharmacy or current employer
  - Degree(s) held
  - All applicant confidentiality was preserved through blinding.
• 97 Colleges of pharmacy were identified using the American Academy of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) list of accredited colleges of pharmacy.
• 50 United States colleges of pharmacy were analyzed.
  - Excluded abroad programs

RESULTS

Continuous
No

Figure 1: Geographic Location of Confirmed PharmDs and Post-Graduate Training Program Applicants

Figure 2: Post-Graduate Training Program Applicant Status at Time of Application (N=335)

- 90% of the applicants from P&G, Rutgers, and Eli Lilly (onsite interviews) were PharmD candidates at time of application.
- 138 applicants with additional degree information from Procter & Gamble and Eli Lilly (onsite interviews only) were analyzed as a subset of the overall population.
  - 12% of applicants had an additional Masters degree or higher (e.g. MBA).

RESULTS (continued)

- 35 Colleges of pharmacy, representing 36% of the AACP identified colleges of pharmacy, had no applicants.
- Approximately 50% of the applicants were from Northeast states of NJ, NY, PA, and MA.
- 10% of the applicants had already graduated with a PharmD.

Limitations

- Duplicate data from applicants applying to more than one of the indicated programs was not eliminated due to blinding.
- PharmDs conferred reflects 2005-2006 AACP data, while the applicant data reflects individuals applying during recruitment in 2006-2007.
- Eli Lilly applicant data included only those who had onsite interviews.

CONCLUSIONS

- The largest number of applicants to these three programs are coming from colleges of pharmacy in the Northeast.
- Most states with larger applicant numbers have an immediate or adjacent connection to a pharmaceutical company.
- Three outliers where a larger number of PharmDs were conferred along with a smaller number of applicants were California, Florida, and Texas.
- The states with the largest numbers of PharmDs conferred were not predictive of applicants to the three indicated post-graduate training programs.
- Further study is needed to evaluate why students from some states/colleges of pharmacy apply while others do not.

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