Comparison of post-doctoral pharmacy training programs: Medical Information fellowships and Drug Information residencies

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Background

- Pharmacy graduates interested in post-doctoral training opportunities in Medical Information (MI) or Drug Information (DI) programs may need to carefully consider the differences between Medical Information Fellowship and Drug Information Residency programs.
- The focus of DI residencies is generic drug information, whereas MI fellowships are more focused on patient-centered, therapeutic area experiences.

Objective

- To identify the similarities and differences between Medical Information Fellowship and Drug Information Residency post-doctoral training programs in regards to core responsibilities, available opportunities, and skillsets developed.

Methods

- Drug Information residencies were identified by reviewing the ASHP and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) residency directories for qualifying programs. In addition, an online search engine query was conducted to locate non-indexed, non-ASHP accredited residencies.
- Medical Information fellowships were identified by an online search engine query. In addition, a search of the ASHP Personal Placement Service (PPS) for the 2017-2018 academic year was conducted for qualifying medical information fellowships.
- Drug Information residencies and Medical Information fellowships identified for inclusion were reviewed by investigation of the online program websites or program brochures to classify core responsibilities and skillsets developed.
- Each program was reviewed independently by two investigators.
- A descriptive analysis of development opportunities was conducted.

Results

- A total of 23 Drug Information residencies—14 ASHP-accredited and 9 non-ASHP-accredited—and 33 Medical Information fellowships were identified. See Figure 3 and Figure 4
- Professional development opportunities offered by ASHP accredited DI residencies include teaching (98%), utilization evaluations (90%), and policy development (90%). See Figure 1
- Non-ASHP-accredited DI residencies offer didactic teaching (94%), collaborational with cross-functional teams (91%), teaching/precepting (91%), responding to medical inquiries (88%), and reviewing promotional materials (78%). See Figure 2

Table 1. Comparison of core skills and activities within MI and DI training programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Activity</th>
<th>MI Fellowships</th>
<th>DI Residencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Professionals</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Pharmacists</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Professionals</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigators</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Professional development opportunities offered in DI residencies

Figure 2. Professional development opportunities offered in MI fellowships

Discussion

- Results (continued)


References

- Authors of this presentation have the following disclosures: possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.
- Michael Hogan: Postdoctoral Fellow – Rutgers University
- Sandra Bai: Postdoctoral Fellow – Purdue University
- Jimmy Gonzalez: Post Doctoral Wood Johnson University Hospital Residency Fellowhips
- Samantha Bryant*: Post Doctoral Wood Johnson University Hospital Residency Fellowships
- Lesley Fierro: Captain – Rutgers Fellowship Program

Disclosures

- The views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the agency or the United States.