

Day In the Life of a Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellow

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BACKGROUND

The Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships Program (RPIFP) is a post graduate training program designed to prepare PharmDs for a career in the pharmaceutical industry. A recent survey of RPIFP Fellows identified a perceived insufficiency of information regarding pharmaceutical industry career opportunities for pharmacists.¹ In addition, RPIFP applicants reported that they did not fully understand the roles and responsibilities of a RPIFP Fellow. This survey examines the daily activities of a RPIFP Fellow as they prepare for a future career in the pharmaceutical industry.

OBJECTIVES

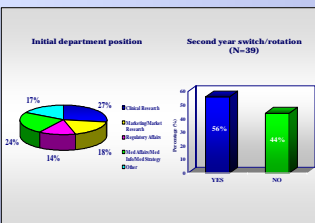
- Primary Objective:**
- Define the roles and responsibilities pertaining to daily activities of a RPIFP Fellow
 - Identify opportunities for RPIFP Fellows that foster growth and development
 - Quantify RPIFP Fellows' involvement in Rutgers University activities
 - Describe the perceptions of the RPIFP among recent RPIFP alumni
- Secondary Objective:**
- Increase awareness about the RPIFP among Pharm.D. candidates

METHODS

- Survey 1: Current RPIFP Fellows
 Seventy-five first and second year fellows were administered a survey electronically via Zoomerang. Questions pertained to the daily activities of a RPIFP Fellow. In addition, fellows were queried about involvement in Rutgers related activities as well as various opportunities available at host companies.
- Survey 2: RPIFP Alumni
 Eighty-six alumni were administered an electronic survey via Zoomerang to identify employment upon program completion and satisfaction with the RPIFP.
- Survey results were analyzed to identify daily activities, including roles and responsibilities, of RPIFP Fellows. Recipients were informed that participation would be kept in confidence, and no identifiers would be linked to the responses.

RESULTS

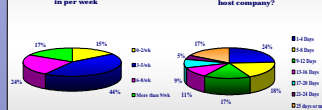
Survey 1: Current RPIFP Fellows



Networking opportunities available at host company

Networking Opportunities	Percentage (%)
L1 Meetings	97
Social networking events	76
Luncheons/Meetings with senior administration	65
Town hall meetings	62
Volunteer/Community service events	61
Team building events	32
Other	5

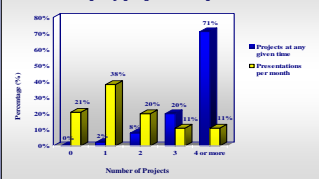
Meetings actively participated in per week



Business travel days per year for host company?



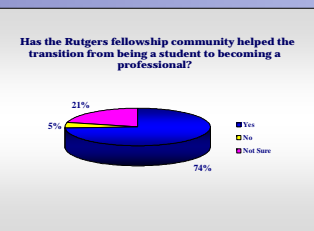
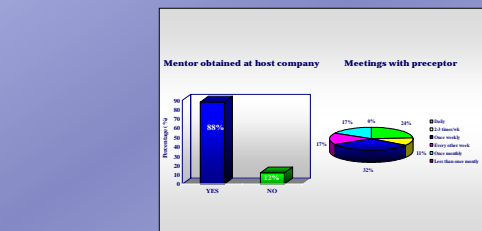
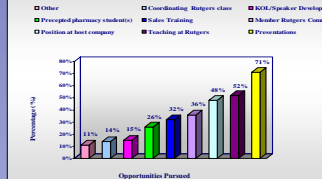
Host company projects and presentations



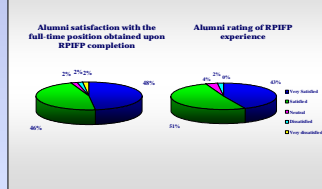
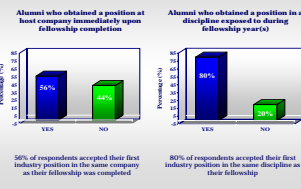
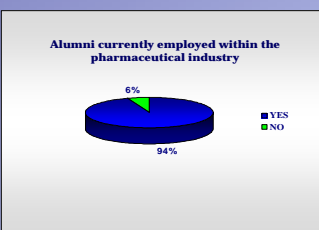
Participation in Rutgers activities

Rutgers-related Activities	Percentage (%)
Recruiting visits	68
Completed a project or publication	39
Chaired a committee in the fellowship	36
Committee member	36
Taught 3 uncompleted lectures at Rutgers University	27
Precepted a Rutgers pharmacy student	17
Coordinated a course at Rutgers University	76
Served as Co-Chief fellow	5
Other	5
Rotated at Rutgers teaching/clinical site	0

Opportunities to enhance leadership, presentation and management skills



Survey 2: RPIFP Alumni



DISCUSSION

- Survey 1: Current RPIFP Fellows
 - Survey response rate was 88% (66/75)
 - More than 70% of fellows took advantage of presentation opportunities to enhance their skill set
 - About 2/3 of fellows pursued teaching opportunities at Rutgers
 - 88% have developed a relationship with a mentor at the host company
 - Almost 3/4 of current RPIFP fellows responded that support from the fellowship community has eased the transition from being a student to being a working professional in the pharmaceutical industry
- Survey 2: RPIFP Alumni
 - Survey response rate was 62% (53/86)
 - 94% of alumni are still employed in the pharmaceutical industry
 - 94% indicated that they are either satisfied or very satisfied with their current positions and the experiences obtained through the fellowship program

LIMITATIONS

- Only RPIFP participants were surveyed. The results are program-specific and may not apply to other industry fellowships.
- Current RPIFP fellows were surveyed only a few months after beginning the program which may influenced some of the metrics.
- The survey was distributed to recent alumni from 2006 and 2007. Perceptions of the RPIFP alumni prior to 2006 may have differed.

CONCLUSIONS

- The daily life of a RPIFP Fellow includes actively participating in presentations, projects and meetings along with enhancing fundamental skill sets
- Career growth is fostered from various leadership and management opportunities available through the RPIFP
- Transition into the workforce for the RPIFP fellows has been eased by the support provided by the RPIFP community
- Alumni are very satisfied with their current positions in industry and with the overall RPIFP experience

Disclosures:
 All authors of this study are paid employees of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Reference:
 1. Duggal A, Shukla N, Patel K, et al. Evaluating Awareness of Pharmaceutical Industry Career Options and the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program. [poster]. Presented at the 41st Annual American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting; December 2006, Anaheim, CA.
 2. Vandenberg C and Murphy JE. Satisfaction among residents in ASHP-accredited pharmacy residency programs. American Journal of Health-System Pharmacists 1997; 54: 1521-1527.
 3. Rhoney DE. Pharmacy fellowship programs in the United States: Perceptions from fellows and preceptors. American Journal of Pharmacy Education 1998; 62: 290-296.