Day In the Life of a Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellow


BACKGROUND

The Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships Program (RPIFP) is a postgraduate training program designed to prepare Pharmacists 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. 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

Survey 2: RPIFP Alumni

Discussions

- 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

- Survey 2: RPIFP Alumni
  - Survey response rate was 62% (53/86)
  - 94% of alumni are still employed in the pharmaceutical industry
  - 88% have developed a relationship with a mentor at the host company

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 influence 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

- 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

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