

BACKGROUND

The Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program prepares PharmD graduates to succeed in the pharmaceutical industry by providing hands on experience, enhancing professional growth and development and identifying practice opportunities for pharmacists. The RPIF Program allows fellows to focus on a specific area of interest, including clinical research, marketing, medical information, regulatory affairs, and various other areas. The term "Clinical Research" describes the development of pharmaceutical agents through all phases and encompasses the following disciplines:

- Clinical pharmacology (phases I-II)
- Clinical research (phases II-III)
- Medical affairs (phase IV)

Career path development following the completion of the RPIF program has been previously described, however it has not been examined with a particular focus in clinical research. The purpose of this study was to assess career development after completion of a Clinical Research Fellowship.

STUDY OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this study are:

- To evaluate career opportunities upon completion of the RPIF Program
- To examine the career progression of Clinical Research Fellow alumni

METHODS

A questionnaire was developed and distributed using the Zoomerang Survey tool to anonymously assess the career development of RPIF Clinical Research Program alumni.

The survey included questions about:

- Partner company affiliation
- Pharmaceutical industry experience prior to fellowship
- Core department (focus area of fellowship)
- Level or preparation for a career in the pharmaceutical industry
- Entry-level position acquired by alumni
- Current positions held by the alumni

The completed surveys were compiled to examine initial career opportunities and career progression of RPIF Clinical Research Fellow alumni.

RESULTS

Figure 1: Company Affiliation During Fellowship

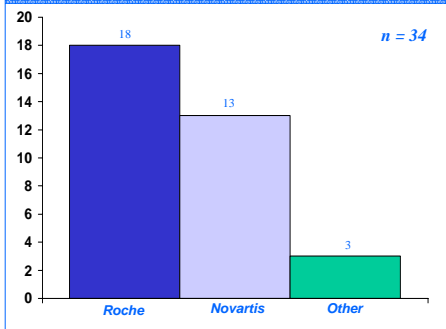


Figure 2: Pharmaceutical Industry Related Experience Prior to Fellowship

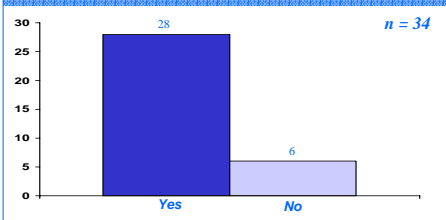


Figure 3: RPIF Program Completion Timeframe

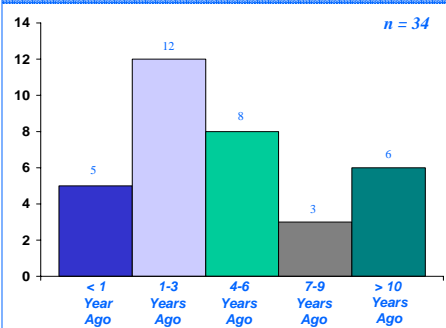


Figure 4: Level of Preparation for a Career in the Pharmaceutical Industry

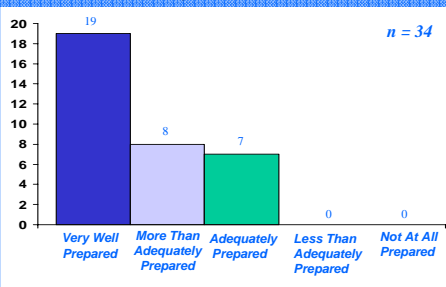


Figure 5: Core Department - Focus Area of Fellowship

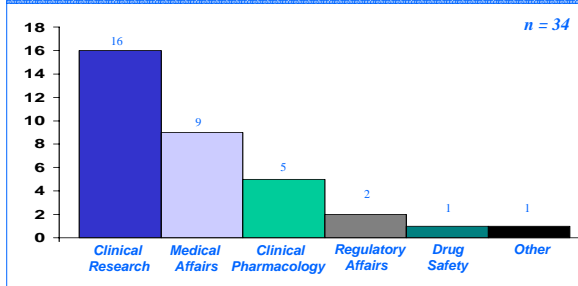


Figure 6: Rotations Pursued During the RPIF Program

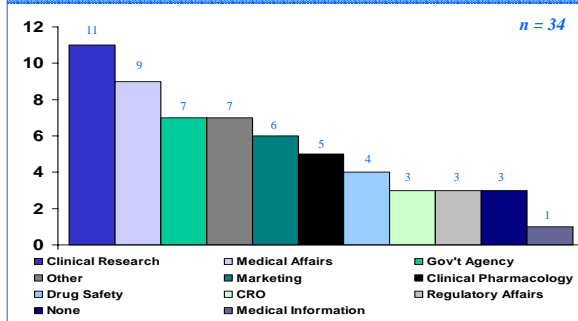


Figure 7: Initial Positions Acquired After Fellowship

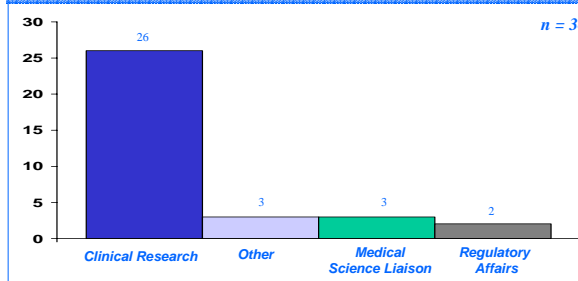
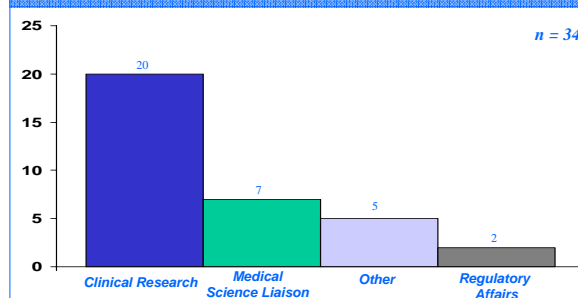


Figure 8: Current Positions of RPIF Program Clinical Research Alumni



DISCUSSION

- Half of the respondents completed their fellowship ≤ 3 years ago and as a result, the limited career progression of these alumni is reflective of this early career stage.
- All respondents reported that they were adequately prepared for their industry career. The majority reported that they were "very well prepared" regardless of which field they elected to pursue.
- Based on the survey results, very few respondents chose not to rotate during their second year. The majority of these alumni remained in the Clinical Research area, although the scope of rotations was quite diverse.
- The results of this study illustrate that about $\frac{3}{4}$ of respondents elected to begin their industry career in Clinical Research following the RPIF Program. Some of the job titles attained are listed below:
 - Country Study Manager
 - Senior Clinical Research Scientist
 - Clinical Science Specialist
 - Senior Clinical Research Associate
 - Clinical Trial Leader
 - Associate Director, Clinical Development
- Other diverse areas pursued by respondents as their entry level position into industry include the following:
 - Manager of Medical Information
 - Medical Science Liaison
 - Publication Manager
 - Regulatory Affairs Manager
 - Health Scientist – CDC
 - Assistant Director, Regulatory Affairs
- The career progression of RPIF Program Clinical Research Alumni is evident in both Clinical Research and other departments which is demonstrated by the number of senior positions currently held by respondents, including:
 - Associate Director:
 - Clinical Research
 - Clinical Scientist
 - Clinical Development
 - Global Studies Leader
 - Associate Director, Global Marketing
 - Regional Scientific Manager
 - Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs
 - Health Scientist, Deputy Team Leader
 - Global Head Scientific Operations
- The survey results are limited to a subset of RPIF Program alumni and may not be representative of all pharmacists working in Clinical Research in the pharmaceutical industry.

CONCLUSION

Most RPIF Program alumni who trained in Clinical Research secured their first full time position in the Clinical Research setting and remain within Clinical Research. RPIF Clinical Research alumni have successfully pursued areas outside of Clinical Research as well. A Clinical Research fellowship through the RPIF Program has prepared them very well for their industry career in any department.

DISCLOSURE

Authors of this presentation have the following to disclose concerning possible financial or person relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation:

- Natanya M. Jennings: Nothing to Disclose
- Salah El-Saheb: Nothing to Disclose
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