Industry-Based Pharmacists and Moonlighting: Remaining Current in Clinical Practice

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Objectives
- To collect licensure data of industry-based pharmacists.
- To identify the rate and extent of industry-based pharmacists working in an alternative practice setting.
- To determine the most common practice setting and reasons why industry-based pharmacists moonlight in addition to their industry position.

Methods
- In late February 2016 a voluntary web-based anonymous survey created through Qualtrics was distributed via email to pharmacists at pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies, which was the only inclusion criterion. Individuals were referred from the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (~800 alumni) or via networking avenues.
- This adaptive survey had a maximum of 20 questions. Question types were multiple choice, fill in the blank, and Likert scale. Participants were allowed to submit a blank survey or skip any questions that they did not wish to answer.
- Participants had two weeks to complete the survey. The survey closed in March 2016 with data analysis completed in June 2016.
- This study was approved by Rutgers Institutional Review Board.

Results
- Of the 108 pharmacists that started the survey and 101 (93.5%) completed it.
- Of the 101 respondents that completed the survey, 97 (96%) currently work in the pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries with the remaining 4% (n=4) having worked in industry previously.
- Of the 97 respondents, 77 (80%) provided a list of reasons for月亮lighting, while an additional 2 noted being active in 4 or more.
- Of the 101 individuals who completed this survey, 89% (n=90) stated they currently held an active pharmacist license.
- Of those currently working in industry (n=97), 89% (n=86) have active licenses. Of those (n=10) who stated their industry job required to be licensed whereas the majority (n=83, 97%) stated they were not required.
- Average length of licensure for all of those holding an active license (n=90) was reported as 9.99 years (range: 1.00 to 30.00).
- An impressive 19% of respondents (n=17) hold licensure in two states but had no restrictions (n=6, 77%) and active in only one state. Two individuals reported holding licensure in 3 states and another 2 noted being active in 4 or more.
- A majority of pharmacists (57%) held an additional pharmacy role while simultaneously working in the pharmaceutical industry. The reasons for this most point during their career (Table 1).
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Discussion
- Of the 55 respondents that reported moonlighting, there were 5 that held pharmacist jobs in multiple settings at any one time for reasons ranging from financial, personal, and additional clinical practice opportunities. For example, one pharmacist indicated working in both Hospital (staff) and Community (chain) settings.
- Although industry pharmacists moonlight mainly for financial reasons, a large percentage noted other reasons which varied by practice setting.
- Practicing industry-based pharmacists reported working on average per month 3.53 days and 22.33 hours. The time worked by these individuals is not insignificant given that they also work full-time.

Conclusions
- Industry pharmacists maintain active pharmacy licensure at a high rate and some even have pharmacy licenses across multiple states.
- Working in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry does not limit pharmacists from using their license and practicing in patient care.
- Industry-based pharmacists most often moonlight in community (chain) pharmacies and often held additional roles.
- Additional research should be conducted to further evaluate pharmacists’ moonlighting roles and those of other professionals (physicians, nurses, who work in the industry).

References