

# Addressing the Critical Need for Pharmacist-Based HIV/AIDS Services in Southern Africa

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## Background

- The alarming incidence of HIV/AIDS in southern Africa has placed a severe strain on healthcare in the region
- Contributing to the crisis is a shortage of, and increasing demand for, trained healthcare professionals, particularly pharmacists
- Number and complexity of patients have left little or no time for pharmacists to develop comprehensive pharmacy services
- Described here are challenges and achievements experienced by a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) resident in developing expanded pharmacy services and programs in southern Africa

## Methodology

- A unique pharmacy practice residency entailing 6 months in southern Africa was created through a partnership between Rutgers University and Bristol-Myers Squibb's Secure the Future.
- Using a stepwise work plan (Chart 1), the PharmD resident developed capacity-building programs for the provision of pharmacy services beyond dispensing

Activities targeted...

- Enhanced patient counseling through **HIV support group education**
- Improved treatment management using a **novel drug monitoring tool (Figure 1)**
- Bolstered provider practical knowledge through **concept-driven and topic-specific presentations**

## Evaluation

- At program conclusion, the PharmD resident conducted **participant survey** at one of the main work sites (Senkatana Centre) to determine favorability of program (Tables 1,2,3)

## Scope of Work

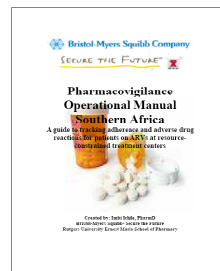
### Primary Sites



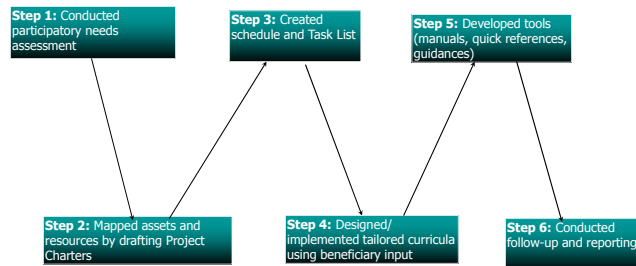
### Key Activities

- Operational Observation
- Idea Generation with National Health Training College (ADR Tracking, Pharmacy Staff Retention)
- Development of HIV Support Group Education Program
- Development of ARV Pharmacovigilance Spreadsheet Program (drug monitoring/patient tracking tool) *Figure 1*
- Modular skills training for pharmacy technicians/assistants
- World AIDS Day @ Baragwanath
- Rutgers Fellows Charitable Contributions to HIV Support Groups and Child Care Centers
- National Pharmacy Week Co-Coordinator (Rural School Visits, Large-scale Health Fair, Hospital Waiting Area Presentations)

**Figure 1: Operational Manual for ARV monitoring**

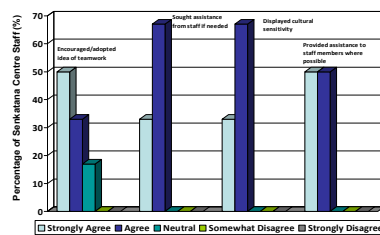


**Chart 1: Stepwise Work Plan**

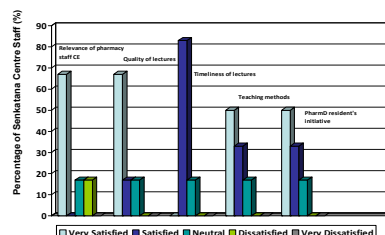


## Outcomes

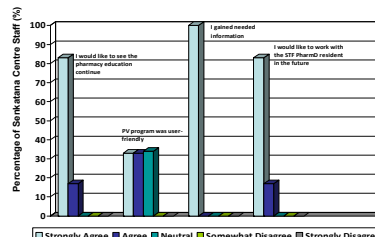
**Table 1: Participant Evaluation: Adaptability**



**Table 2: Participant Evaluation: Performance**



**Table 3: Participant Evaluation: Need**



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## Discussion/Limitations

The residency demonstrated that...

- There is an acute need for pharmacists in the fight against HIV/AIDS in southern Africa
- Sustainable programs incorporate stakeholders at all levels; national, local, and institutional

Limitations included...

- Lack of facility space
- Insufficient time
- Frequent scheduling conflicts

Evaluation revealed that...

- Majority showed favorable opinion of the pilot PharmD skills transfer program
- All acknowledged the *need* for the information presented and would like to see its continuation
- One observer was dissatisfied with relevance of pharmacy continuing education, though all program users were satisfied

## Program Suggestions

From PharmD Resident...

- Broaden health campaigns (i.e. smoking cessation, cancer)
- Deepen commitment to primary health care
- Expand relationship with traditional healers
- Expand program to sites in Namibia, Swaziland, and West Africa

From Program Participants/Observers...

- Further education and more time on program
- Education on dispensing and stock management, including: importance of keeping stock records, "first in-first-out" methods, expiration dates, and stock serial numbers
- Better workshop setting without disturbing elements
- More rewards for completion of modules and staff participation

## Next Steps

- Continue follow-up analysis of the drug monitoring tool, including coordination with pharmacy and data management personnel

- Continue development of comprehensive care programs

- Collaborate with physicians on chart reviews and development of operational research strategies

- Foster more government support

## Conclusion

- Skills transfer programs that utilize pharmacists' drug expertise and public health awareness are invaluable

- Feedback from program observers/participants is essential for providing key improvements for the future