The voluntary, anonymous survey was approved by the Rutgers eIRB. The survey consisted of approximately 20 questions, assessing all alumni of the RPIF program who consented to participate in the Fellowship alumni (n=800) were sent an invitation to take a survey. Participants who did not respond to ≥75% of questions were excluded. The survey was active for approximately one month with a reminder two weeks after the initial distribution. Participation in such a program allows a fellow to experience many opportunities available through a fellowship.

Method

• Fellowship alumni (n=800) were sent an invitation to take a survey through a preexisting emailing list. The e-mail explained the study purpose and consent procedure before including a link to participate in the online survey.

The survey was active for approximately one month with a reminder two weeks after the initial distribution.

• All alumni of the RPIF program who consented to participate in the study through completion and submission of the online survey were enrolled; alumni who did not consent through completion and submission of the online survey were excluded.

• The survey consisted of approximately 20 questions, assessing demographics, type of fellowship, fellowship structure, perceived value of the fellowship, and satisfaction with the fellowship with an estimated completion time of 5-10 minutes.

• Participants who did not respond to ≥75% of questions were excluded from the final data analysis.

Results

• The number of alumni from the RPIF program (n=800) is a representative sample of all pharmaceutical industry Pharm.D. fellowship alumni, as the program is the largest and oldest of its kind.

• Overall, fellowship alumni perceived themselves to be qualified to be hired for jobs with requirements greater than the number of years spent training in the fellowship. The majority (75%) of alumni accepted positions which required ≤5 years of experience immediately post-fellowship.

• More than 70% of fellows who expressed interest in pursuing a rotation outside of the present curriculum of their fellowship were able to do so.

• 60% of RPIF alumni were confident (>3 on a scale of 1-10) in pursuing opportunities broader than what they were trained in during the first 5 years post-fellowship.

Discussion

Conclusions

• The perceived value of a postdoctoral fellowship to Pharm.D. fellowship alumni is greater than the time they spent in the program.

• Participation in such a program allows a fellow to experience many opportunities outside of his or her functional area.