

Background

- The Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) program is an industry-based training program designed in 1984 for individuals with a Doctorate of Pharmacy to further their experience in the pharmaceutical industry through work experience and clinical research.
- The clinical and management training provided by the program has helped to expand the pharmacist's roles and responsibilities within the industry.
- Rotations are also a key element of the program. Many fellows have the opportunity to experience rotations outside of their core department or even at a site external to their host company such as the FDA.
- There is currently no measurable data regarding the value of a fellowship to a pharmacist's career progression within the pharmaceutical industry.

Objective

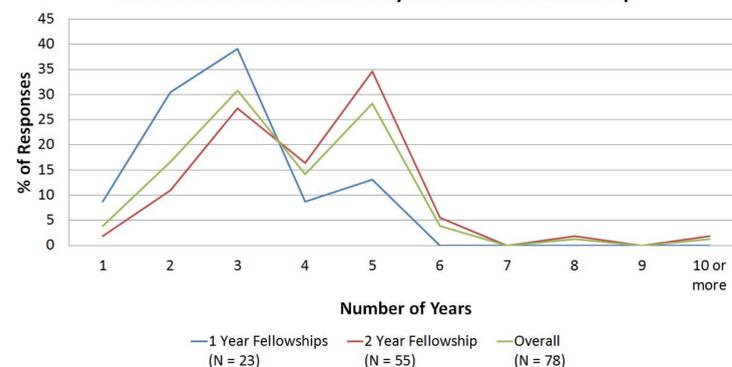
- To determine if and by how much (range of years) completing a postdoctoral pharmaceutical industry fellowship is perceived to influence the progression of a fellow's career.
- To evaluate the extent of cross-functional experiences and opportunities available through a fellowship.

Method

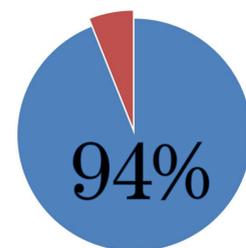
- Fellowship alumni (n=800) were sent an invitation to take a survey through a preexisting emailing list. The e-mail explained the study purpose and consent procedure before including a link to participate in the online survey.
- The voluntary, anonymous survey was approved by the Rutgers eIRB and was conducted through Qualtrics.
- 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 $\geq 75\%$ of questions were excluded from the final data analysis

Results

Figure 1: Approximate Number of Years Typically Required for First Position Received by Duration of Fellowship

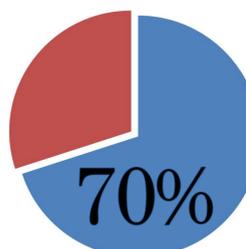


- The mode for 1 Year Fellowship Alumni responses was 3 years (9 out of 23 responses; ~39%) followed by 2 years as the second most common response (7 out of 23 responses; ~30%).
- The mode for 2 Year Fellowship Alumni responses was 5 years (19 out of 55 responses; ~35%) followed by 3 years as the second most common response (15 out of 55 responses; ~27%).



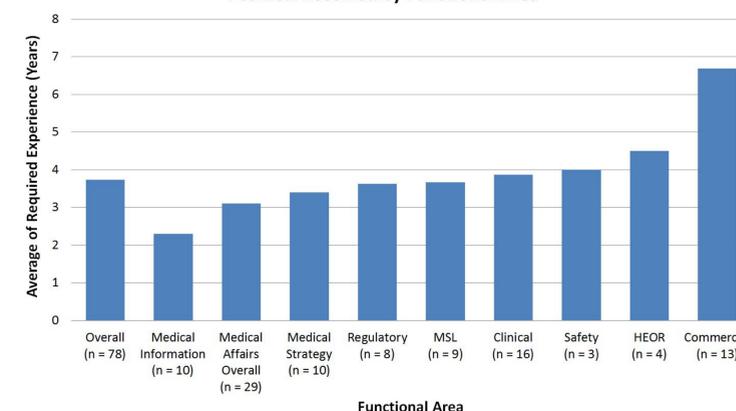
of RPIF alumni were satisfied (≥ 7 on a scale of 1-10) with the experience they gained from the fellowship program to prepare them for their first position post-fellowship

Satisfaction with experience gained was similar between fellows who had at least 1 rotation during their fellowship versus fellows who did not rotate (8.5 and 8.8 with n = 45 and 37 respectively)



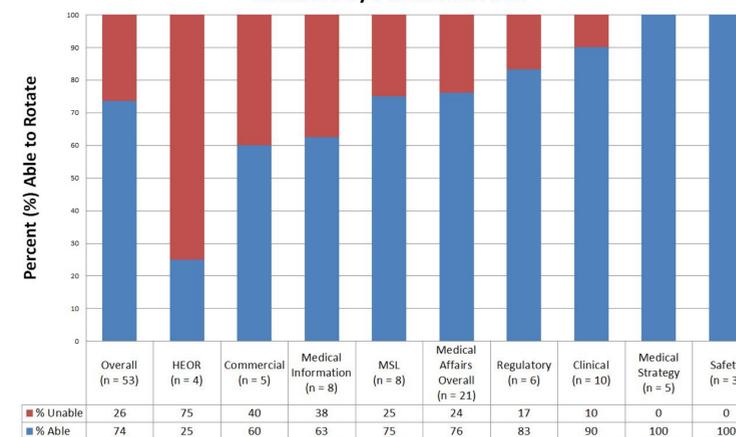
of RPIF alumni were satisfied (≥ 7 on a scale of 1-10) with the ability to rotate during their fellowship

Figure 2: Approximate Number of Years Typically Required for First Position Received by Functional Area



HEOR = Health Economics and Outcomes Research; MSL = Medical Science Liaison

Figure 3: Flexibility of Rotating On an Industry Fellowship Stratified by Functional Area



HEOR = Health Economics and Outcomes Research; MSL = Medical Science Liaison;

Discussion

- 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 for jobs with requirements greater than the number of years spent training in the fellowship. The majority (71%) of alumni accepted positions which required 3-5 years of experience immediately post-fellowship.
- More than 70% of fellows who expressed interest in pursuing a rotation outside of the preset curriculum of their fellowship were able to do so.
- 66% of RPIF alumni were confident (≥ 7 on a scale of 1-10) in pursuing opportunities broader than what they were trained in in the first 5 years post-fellowship

Limitations

- Not all alumni of the RPIF program were contacted to complete the survey potentially due to change in contact information
- Subjective responses to the survey questions required interpretation and extrapolation of results
- Lack of compliance and participation from all RPIF program alumni

Conclusions

- The perceived value of a postdoctoral fellowship to Pharm.D. fellow 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.

References

- Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Program. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2016. Web. Oct. 2016. Available at: <https://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu/index.php>.

Author Contact Information

Author Contact Information
Mengsong Li, Pharm.D.
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
mengsong@rutgers.edu

Disclosure
All authors are affiliated with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey