A Review of Major Post-Doctoral Pharmaceutical Industry Programs

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Introduction
The goal of post-doctoral fellowships/residencies is to provide specialized postgraduate training in a particular discipline. Such is the case for pharmaceutical industry-based postgraduate training programs, which have been available to pharmacists for more than twenty years. Although these programs have grown significantly in size and scope, awareness and understanding of the different offerings remains low. The lack of awareness is compounded by the complexity of evaluating the wide variety of different program options and how they relate to career goals of prospective program candidates. This project compares the major postgraduate fellowship/residency programs that provide pharmaceutical industry-based training, including the Rutgers Post-Doctoral Industry Fellowship Program, the Eli Lilly Visiting Scientist Program, and the various programs offered by GlaxoSmithKline. Some of these programs are structured as University/Industry collaborations and may include an academic component.

Methods
Program directors from a few of the most established industry fellowship/residency programs available to PharmDs were surveyed to gather information on the availability and description of positions, application requirements, interview process, promotion, and benefits. Data was collected from the completed surveys and supplemented by information from the respective program websites.

Rutgers Post-Doctoral Industry Fellowship
- **Design**: To provide specialized training in traditional and non-traditional disciplines within the pharmaceutical industry
- **Length**: 1- & 2-year fellowships
- **Locations**: NJ/NY/CT tri-state area
- **Required degree**: PharmD
- **Affiliated Industry Partners**: Aventis, Berlex Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Hoffmann-La Roche, Novartis

Eli Lilly Visiting Scientist Program
- **Design**: To train professionals for a career in the pharmaceutical industry
- **Length**: 1-year program
- **Locations**: Indianapolis, IN
- **Required degree**: PharmD, MD, Masters, or PhD
- **Affiliated partners**: None

GlaxoSmithKline Fellowship/Residency Program
- **Design**: To prepare residents/fellows for future career opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry, managed care organizations, and/or academia
- **Length**: 1- and 2-year residencies/fellowships
- **Locations**: Philadelphia, PA & Research Triangle Park, NC
- **Required degree**: PharmD, MD, or PhD
- **Affiliated academic partners**: University of Sciences in Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, Thomas Jefferson University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University Medical Center

Interview/Application Process
- All three programs recruit at the ASHP Midyear meeting
- Other program sources of information may include website, pamphlet/brochures, career fairs, presentations and post-graduate showcases
- Programs may request a curriculum vitae or resume, letters of recommendation, transcripts, and/or a letter of intent
- During on-site interviews, the GlaxoSmithKline and Rutgers programs may request that the candidate give a presentation or produce a writing sample
- Eli Lilly’s Visiting Scientist program requires all candidates to give a presentation during their on-site interview

Interviewers should ask about the graduates’ experiences in the programs. Indicators that the graduate has had a good experience include ongoing educational opportunities, access to established contacts, and the ability to pursue career goals. The goal of post-doctoral fellowships/residencies is to provide specialized training in traditional and non-traditional disciplines within the pharmaceutical industry.