The Impact of Industry-Based Training and Student Leadership Experiences of PharmD Graduates on Obtaining a Position with the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program

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BACKGROUND

- Many PharmD students seeking careers in the pharmaceutical industry apply for industry focused post-graduate training programs
- Opportunities for pharmacists in the pharmaceutical industry include, but are not limited to clinical research, medical affairs, regulatory affairs, and marketing
- The Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program, founded in 1984, is the largest post-graduate training program designed to bridge the experience gap between recent PharmD graduates and the entry-level job requirements of the pharmaceutical industry
- An evaluation of RPIF Program applicants in 2009 was conducted to identify the impact of industry-based training experiences and leadership roles of PharmD graduates on the likelihood of successfully obtaining a position in the RPIF Program

OBJECTIVES

- To analyze data from applicants who completed industry-based rotations and/or internships to determine how these experiences relate to successfully obtaining a fellowship position
- To analyze the impact of student leadership and other experiences on successfully obtaining a fellowship position

METHODS

- A randomized, blinded analysis of the curriculums vitae of July 2009 RPIF Program applicants (N=175) was completed to evaluate:
  - Industry-based rotations and/or internship experiences
  - Pharmacy organization memberships
  - Leadership experiences
  - Poster presentations and publications
  - Additional degrees and other experiences/accomplishments
- Data was collected and entered into the Zoomerang online survey tool for analysis
- Inclusion criteria: Fellowship applicants starting July 2009 that were on the RPIF Program website portal
- Exclusion criteria: Applicants with incomplete applications or who declined RPIF Program offers
- The relative likelihood of successfully obtaining a fellowship was determined for each factor evaluated

RESULTS

Table 1. Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Accepted</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>(31.4%)</td>
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</tbody>
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Table 2. Student Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Accepted</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>(47%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>(53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>(69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>(31%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Experiential Industry Rotations for 2009 Applicants

Figure 2. Industry Internship/Work Experience for 2009 Applicants

Figure 3. Leadership Positions Held by 2009 Applicants

Figure 4. Number of Leadership Positions Held by 2009 Applicants

DISCUSSION

- Prior pharmaceutical industry experience was correlated to a higher acceptance into the RPIF fellowship
- In 2009, 81% of accepted applicants had an industry rotation compared with 65% of non-accepted applicants
- Likewise, 17% of accepted applicants had an industry internship/work experience compared with 25% of non-accepted applicants
- Results from 2008 were comparable to that in 2009
- A majority of the experiential industry rotations were in the medical information department, likely indicating that these rotations are most available for PharmD students
- There were also high percentages in medical communication, industry apply for industry focused post-graduate training programs
- A higher percentage of accepted applicants held leadership positions compared with 25% of non-accepted applicants

CONCLUSIONS

- Overall, accepted RPIF Program applicants had more industry-based experiences as part of an experiential rotation and/or an internship/work experience
- Student leadership/involvement, regardless of position and number of positions held, appears to be a contributing factor to successfully obtaining an RPIF fellowship position
- Student pharmacists who are interested in pursuing industry fellowships should attempt to gain industry and leadership experiences to improve the likelihood of obtaining an RPIF fellowship position

REFERENCES


DISCLOSURES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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