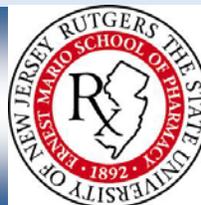




# Trends Analysis: Evaluating Preferred Career Positions Within Industry from Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program (RPIFP)



Arpan Shah, PharmD; Annette Gbemudu, PharmD, MBA; James G. Alexander, PharmD; Joseph A. Barone, PharmD, FCCP  
 Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

## Introduction

The pharmaceutical industry offers a diverse array of career opportunities for PharmDs with an interest in that practice setting. Postgraduate training or experience is frequently a necessary prerequisite to securing a full-time position in a PharmD's preferred area of interest. Pharmaceutical industry-based postgraduate training programs provide pharmacists with an opportunity to gain sufficient practical experience in an area of specialty to secure a full time position. This study evaluated factors influencing industry career choices for pharmacists participating in, or recently having completed, the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program.

## Objectives

The primary objective of this study was to identify which industry positions are highly sought after by i) fellows currently participating in, and ii) alumni who have recently completed, the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program.

The secondary objective of the study was to identify which factors influence decision-making regarding a prospective full time position.

## Methods

### Population

Current fellows scheduled to complete the RPIF Program in 2007 or 2008, and RPIF program alumni completing the program in 2006.

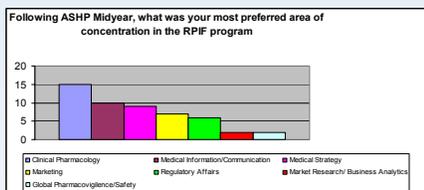
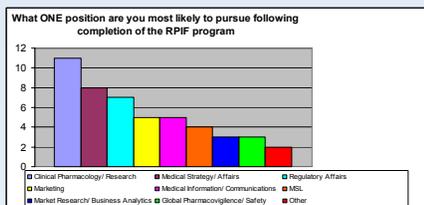
### Materials

A 6-question survey was distributed via Zoomerang to 68 of the fellows currently participating in the RPIF Program. Responses from 51 fellows are included in the results.

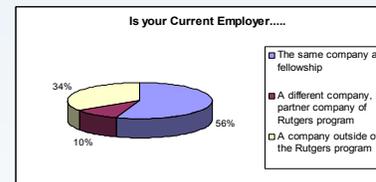
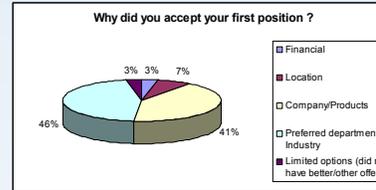
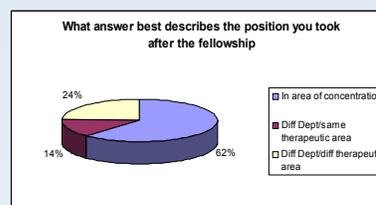
A different 6-question survey was distributed via Zoomerang to forty-three 2006 alumni of the RPIF Program. Responses from 29 alumni are included in the results.

Raw data from anonymously completed surveys were collected from November 1st 2006, to November 17th 2006.

## Results



ALUMNI



CURRENT FELLOWS

## Limitations

The poster title suggests that this project evaluated trends. The data collected will serve as a baseline against which future data will be compared to identify trends. Being that there is no comparative group at this point, limited conclusions can be drawn at this point.

Furthermore, the survey population was comprised of a specific subset of pharmacists currently or recently participating in the RPIF Program. Therefore, the results may not be applicable to all pharmacists pursuing a career in industry.

## Conclusion

Most fellows are interested in focusing their training and pursuing careers in clinical pharmacology/research.

Graduates of the program are likely to secure positions in their fellowship areas of concentration, and to remain with the same company as their fellowship program.

The training offered by the fellowships appears to enable the trainees to secure their desired career objectives in the pharmaceutical industry.

## Discussion

### Alumni

- The top 3 career choices among current fellows are Clinical Pharmacology/Research, Medical Strategy/Affairs and Regulatory Affairs.
- Interestingly, current fellow respondents reported that Clinical Pharmacology/ Research was also their most highly sought after area of
- concentration when they had attended the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.
- When comparing the interest level of current fellows at the time they first interviewed for the RPIF Program at the ASHP Midyear to the time the survey was administered, the largest difference was identified in the area of Medical Information/Communications, which experienced a change in the number of respondents (from n=10 to n=5) indicating that this was their preferred area of focus.
- Among current fellow respondents, 38% ranked the "Fellowship description/Role of fellow at company" as the most important reason for accepting the fellowship position within the RPIF Program.

### Current Fellow

- A widely held belief is that pharmacists pursue industry careers because of the financial rewards. In contradiction, only 3% of RPIF Program alumni reported that financial considerations were the primary factor in accepting their first full-time position.
- Among RPIF Program alumni, 45% reported "Preferred Department In Industry" as the most important reason for accepting their current position, followed closely by 41% reporting "Company Products" as the most important reason.
- Among RPIF Program alumni respondents, 62% assumed full-time positions in the same area of concentration as that of their fellowship program, and 55% accepted full-time positions with the same company that served as their host during the program.