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

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**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.

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

**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.

**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**

**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.