Trends in Pharmacist Employment in the Pharmaceutical Industry

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BACKGROUND

- Currently there is a trend of career opportunities available to pharmacists.
- The number of pharmacists employed in the pharmaceutical industry is at all time high.
- Although the number of industry pharmacists has been increasing over decades, there is a paucity of information concerning why this is happening.
- Pharmacists currently employed in the pharmaceutical industry are a great resource to help shed light on this topic.

OBJECTIVE

- To examine, through currently employed industry pharmacists, any changes over the past 30 years in:
  - why and when pharmacists pursue industry careers
  - what, if any, demographic factors are first employed within industry
  - how pharmacists enter industry
  - the desired attributes that contribute to a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry

METHODLOGY

- A 12-question retrospective survey was electronically sent to 375 respondents:
  - the year respondents received their first pharmacy degree:
  - factors influencing the decision to pursue a career in industry
  - highest level of education
  - the desired attributes that contribute to a successful career

RESULTS

- Respondents were asked to rank the above five aspects in terms of what was most appealing in
- Respondents were asked to indicate how they became aware of available career opportunities:
- Excluding the 1980-1989 group, there was no real difference among the groups in the reasons
- Respondents were asked to rank the above eight attributes in terms of what they considered
- Most Important Reason(s) for Pursuing a Career in the Pharmaceutical Industry
- As compared to 30 years ago, more of today’s pharmacists have completed some type of post-
- Pharmacists appear to be entering the pharmaceutical industry for the same reasons, most notably, job

DISCUSSION

- The results of this survey highlight some interesting trends with respect to pharmacist
- Approximately 86% of evaluable respondents graduated in 1990 or later
- Survey was not comprehensive of all pharmacists employed within the pharmaceutical industry
- A large proportion of surveys were sent to current Drug Information specialists
- Approximately 30% of respondents were alumni of the Rutgers University Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program

CONCLUSIONS

- The results of this survey have indicated Drug Information, which could be related to
- Awareness drivers that exhibited increased utilization over time included: friends in
- The majority of respondents (n=45) indicated Drug Information, which could be related to
- As compared to 30 years ago, more of today’s pharmacists have completed some type of post-
- Most Important Attribute(s) for Advancement Within Industry
- It is important to note that no single attribute ranked considerably higher than the others, with
- Job Satisfaction
- Leadership Skills
- Communication Skills
- Clinical Knowledge
- Training Program

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