

COMMUNITY PHARMACY RESIDENTS' PURSUIT OF ACADEMIC POSITIONS: ASSESSMENT OF KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING CAREER PATHS

Colleen A. Clark¹, Bella H. Mehta¹, Jennifer L. Rodis¹, Maria C. Pruchnicki¹

¹Division of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, College of Pharmacy, The Ohio State University

Purpose: To 1) determine the percentage of residents accepting faculty positions after APhA Community Pharmacy Residency Program (CPRP) completion, 2) identify factors influencing a CPRP resident's decision to pursue a career in academia, and 3) compare perceived characteristics of ideal position versus characteristics of position accepted.

Methods: CPRP residency directors and preceptors were contacted to compile a current roster of residents. Pre- and post-surveys were developed then field-tested on pharmacy residents at The Ohio State University Medical Center. The final online survey was sent via email to all CPRP residents in October 2005 (pre-survey) and the post-survey will follow in June 2006. Surveys detail resident demographics, program characteristics, and resident experience with clinical practice, teaching and research. The pre-survey also requests information on job preferences; while the post-survey focuses on job selection.

Results: Fifty-three CPRP residents were identified, 85% (n=45) completed the pre-survey. One hundred percent of respondents anticipated teaching experience through precepting, lecturing, and/or facilitating workshops, recitations, or labs. The top three job preferences included community pharmacy, faculty, and ambulatory clinic. Thirty-six percent indicated they were seriously considering faculty positions. Ideal job characteristics most important to respondents included flexibility, collaboration with other healthcare professionals, and a variety of daily activities. Analysis of the post-survey will provide percentage accepting faculty positions, evaluate factors influencing decisions to pursue academic careers, and compare characteristics of the ideal job versus accepted position.

Conclusions: Pharmacy faculty shortages are well documented in recent literature. According to AACP committee reports, pharmacy residents and fellows are key candidates to train and fill these faculty positions. Study results are expected to show residency preceptors and potential residents how CPRP experience and training relates to the pursuit of academic careers. It will also provide valuable information to colleges of pharmacy to assist in the recruitment of new faculty.