Development and Implementation of a Post-Doctoral Academic Pharmacy Fellowship

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Abstract

Objectives: Describe the process and results from developing and implementing a new academic pharmacy fellowship.

Methods: Our School was able to secure funding to initiate a 12-month long academic pharmacy fellowship program to begin with the 2010-11 academic year. This program was designed to provide an opportunity for those interested to seek training that would facilitate becoming productive members of the pharmacy academy. Fellows would be expected to participate in all facets of academic life, including scholarship, service, teaching and an academic clinical practice where appropriate.

Results: To date the fellow has been involved in multiple courses in our program, and participated in the local residency teaching certificate program. This has included 60 hours of group facilitation and 11 hours of classroom instruction. The fellow has received significant feedback and mentoring regarding their instruction, as well as the opportunity to provide feedback and critique of faculty instruction. The fellow will have presented 2 poster presentations and submitted 1 manuscript by the end of the fellowship. The fellow has also been on 3 committees at the School level, in addition to being active in various professional organizations.

Implications: The growth in existing and new pharmacy schools has resulted in a shortage of prepared pharmacy faculty members. Most traditional pharmacy training programs do not provide significant training or development to those interested in pursuing a career in pharmacy education. This program is designed to provide aspiring academicians with an opportunity to attain a solid foundation for an academic pharmacy career.

Disciplines
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

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Development and Implementation of a Post-Doctoral Academic Pharmacy Fellowship

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Objective

Describe the process and results from developing and implementing a new academic pharmacy fellowship.

Overview

Our School was able to secure funding to initiate a 12-month long academic pharmacy fellowship program to begin with the 2010-11 academic year. This program was designed to provide an opportunity for those interested in seeking training that would facilitate becoming productive members of the pharmacy academic. Fellow would be expected to participate in all facets of academic life, including scholarship, service, teaching and an academic clinical practice where appropriate.

Results

To date the fellow has been involved in multiple courses in our program, and participated in the local residency teaching certificate program. This has included 60 hours of group facilitation and 11 hours of classroom instruction. The fellow has received significant feedback and mentoring regarding their instruction, as well as the opportunity to provide feedback and critique of faculty instruction. The fellow presented two poster presentations and submitted one manuscript prior to completion of the fellowship. The fellow has served on three committees at the School level, in addition to being active in various professional organizations.

Discussion

The first year of this program has been an unqualified success! The fellow has experienced significant growth and has been a productive educator, scholar and clinician. As the first year has drawn to a close the fellowship team has evaluated the program and determined that expansion to two fellows for the 2011-12 academic year is warranted. At the same time the team recognizes that as many questions as answers exist regarding future processes for this type of post-doctoral training experience. Chief among the questions is the issue of candidate background, i.e. pharmacy practice versus other pharmacy disciplines. In this vein if this remains a pharmacy practice based training opportunity, should this transition to a residency?

Conclusions

The growth in existing and new pharmacy schools has resulted in a shortage of prepared pharmacy faculty members. Most traditional pharmacy training programs do not provide significant training or development to those interested in pursuing a career in pharmacy education. This program was designed to provide aspiring academics with an opportunity to attain a solid foundation for an academic pharmacy career.

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