

Exploring the Experiences of Pharmacy Editorial Leaders:

A Cross-Sectional Study

Kevin T. Fuji, PharmD, MA; Jessica Scherer, PharmD candidate; Sierra Conner, PharmD candidate; Laura Klug, PharmD

Editorial leaders of pharmacy journals serve primarily to contribute to the profession, although they receive limited formal training for their responsibilities.

There are few differences across genders except more women serve as manuscript reviewers and are asked to contribute their own work to the journal.

OBJECTIVE

- To explore the experiences of pharmacy editorial leaders to better understand one mechanism for leadership skill development and advancement of the profession. Particular focus was placed on examining gender-based differences.

METHODS

- Study Design:** Cross-sectional online survey
- Study Population:** Editorial leaders (n=683) of 19 pharmacy journals that were:
 - English-language
 - CiteScore ≥ 1.0 and/or identified by a pharmacy expert
 - Focused on pharmacy practice
- Survey Information:**
 - Researcher-developed
 - Items on demographics, editorial responsibilities, barriers to participants, benefits to participation
- Data Analysis:** Descriptive and sub-analysis by gender

RESULTS

Response rate:
26.4% (n=180)

Average age:
53 years old

Pharm.D. trained
(n=94, 52.2%)
Ph.D. trained
(n=89, 49.4%)

Average of 10 hours per
month on editorial
responsibilities

Half characterized
themselves as servant
leaders (n=90, 50.3%)

24.4% of females felt they had to work
harder than males to obtain their editorial
leadership position

37.4% of females felt a responsibility to
provide additional support to women
authors

EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Item	Overall (n=180)	Female (n=92)	Male (n=87)	p-value
APPOINTMENT PROCESS				
Invited by the journal editor	131 (72.8)	72 (78.3)	59 (67.8)	.115
Responded to a call for applicants by the journal	37 (20.6)	19 (20.7)	17 (19.5)	.853
Invited by a current editorial board member	30 (16.7)	12 (13.0)	18 (20.7)	.171
Expressed interest about being considered for possible appointment to journal staff	9 (5.0)	4 (4.3)	5 (5.7)	.742
BARRIERS TO APPOINTMENT				
Did not know if my experience was sufficient for an editorial leadership position	68 (54.0)	34 (37.0)	34 (39.1)	.770
Not sure if I had the time to devote to an editorial leadership position	66 (52.4)	40 (43.5)	26 (29.9)	.060
Did not know how to apply for an editorial leadership position	51 (40.5)	21 (22.8)	30 (34.5)	.084
Not aware of editorial leadership opportunities	40 (31.7)	18 (19.6)	22 (25.3)	.358
Lack of relevant networking opportunities or contacts	17 (13.5)	7 (7.6)	10 (11.5)	.375
Had previously applied for an editorial leadership position but was not successful	13 (10.3)	7 (7.6)	6 (6.9)	.854
STRATEGIES USED FOR APPOINTMENT				
Reached out to a member of the editorial leadership team	35 (39.3)	13 (14.1)	22 (25.3)	.060
Consulted colleagues/professional network	32 (36.0)	14 (15.2)	17 (19.5)	.445
Consulted mentors	29 (32.6)	13 (14.1)	16 (18.4)	.439
REASON(S) FOR SERVING				
Contribute to the profession	170 (94.4)	87 (94.6)	82 (94.3)	1.000
Gain new professional experience	114 (63.3)	65 (70.7)	48 (55.2)	.032
Beneficial for employment/position (e.g., promotion and/or tenure)	85 (47.2)	43 (46.7)	41 (47.1)	.959
Build/expand professional network	79 (43.9)	43 (46.7)	35 (40.2)	.380
CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES				
Serve as a manuscript reviewer	164 (91.1)	89 (96.7)	74 (85.1)	.006
Provide guidance on the direction of the journal	140 (77.8)	73 (79.3)	66 (75.9)	.576
Submit/publish my own articles in the journal	111 (61.7)	64 (69.6)	46 (52.9)	.022
Solicit manuscript submissions	79 (43.9)	45 (48.9)	34 (39.1)	.185
Manage editorial processes (e.g., identify and invite reviewers)	29 (16.1)	13 (14.1)	16 (18.4)	.439
EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING				
On-the-job/learned by doing	132 (86.8)	68 (73.9)	63 (72.4)	.821
Resources provided by the journal/publisher (e.g. webinars, self-guided training)	64 (42.1)	36 (39.1)	28 (32.2)	.332
Mentored by existing editorial leaders for the journal	53 (34.9)	30 (32.6)	23 (26.4)	.366
Mentored by a peer with editorial leadership experience	22 (14.5)	10 (10.9)	12 (13.8)	.552
ADDITIONAL DESIRED TRAINING				
Mentored by a peer with editorial leadership experience	57 (54.8)	26 (28.3)	31 (35.6)	.290
Resources provided by the journal/publisher (e.g. webinars, self-guided training)	57 (54.8)	31 (33.7)	26 (29.9)	.584
Mentored by existing editorial leaders for the journal	56 (53.8)	31 (33.7)	25 (28.7)	.474
RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE				
Taken into account for job promotion	71 (75.5)	38 (41.3)	32 (36.8)	.535
Public recognition (e.g. at departmental meetings or organizational newsletters)	44 (46.8)	19 (20.7)	25 (28.7)	.209
BENEFITS OF SERVICE				
Enhanced knowledge of editorial submission/review process	144 (88.3)	78 (84.8)	65 (74.7)	.093
Expanded my professional network	120 (73.6)	62 (67.4)	57 (65.5)	.791
Improved scientific writing ability	76 (46.6)	35 (38.0)	40 (46.0)	.282
Financial compensation from the journal	33 (20.2)	13 (14.1)	20 (23.0)	.127