# Evaluation of Pharmacy Students' Perceptions of Pharmacy Professions through a Speed Networking Event at Roosevelt University College of Pharmacy

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## **Background**

- Upon graduation, most pharmacy students pursue careers in community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, or within the pharmaceutical industry<sup>1,2</sup>
- Students in the pharmacy program at Roosevelt University have numerous opportunities to explore different pharmacy professions, but there is no standardized approach to the timing and content of their exposure
- Professional networking sessions have successfully connected students with pharmacists in fields of interest<sup>3</sup>

## **Objective**

To assess pharmacy student perceptions of different pharmacy career paths and the importance of networking for professional development before and after a speed networking event involving pharmacy professionals from different pharmacy professions.

## Methods

- Prospective, pilot, survey study
- All pharmacy students actively enrolled in our accelerated Doctor of Pharmacy program were invited to the event and asked to complete anonymous surveys via Qualtrics software before and after the event
- Surveys assessed perceptions on networking, readiness for post-graduation, and familiarity with different career paths using a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5. Depending on the question, a score of 1 indicated minimal, unimportant or low unfamiliarity, while 5 signified frequently, important and high familiarity
- Data analysis was conducted using Qualtrics data reports and SPSS® software
- Ten pharmacy professionals representing diverse sectors were chosen by study investigators to participate



#### **Results**

Figure 1: Study population

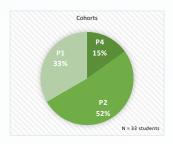


Figure 2: Importance of networking

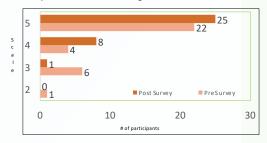
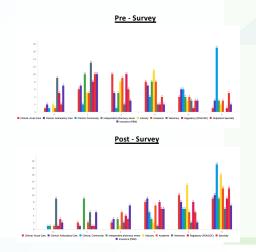


Figure 3: Familiarity of students with pharmacy professions



#### **Discussion**

- There were 33 students and 12 pharmacists, representing various professions that attended the event
- P2 student cohort had the largest representation, consisting of 52% of the student participants
- When comparing average Likert scores on the pre- and postsurvey:
  - The speed networking event motivated students to think more about their post-graduate careers (4.15 v. 4.65, p<.01)</li>
  - Increased student insight into the importance of networking (4.42 v. 4.71, p<.01)</li>
- The top 2 professions with the most change were industry (presurvey 2.45, post-survey 4.38, p<.01) and regulatory affairs (presurvey 1.59, post-survey 3.55, p<.01)</li>
- Overall, analysis of pre- and post-survey Likert scores show increased familiarity with each profession surveyed

#### Limitations

- Approved IRB parameters for the project: students were unable to receive incentives to participate
- Event logistics: some pharmacists required virtual settings, students had a strict time limit for each networking session, the network sessions took place in a group setting
- Not all professions surveyed were represented at the speed networking event

## **Conclusions**

- Participation in a speed networking event featuring diverse pharmacy professions positively influenced student perceptions on post-graduate career planning, networking, and familiarity with different pharmacy professions, particularly in niche areas like industry and regulatory affairs
- · Further research is warranted to generalize these findings

## References

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#### **Disclosures**

The authors of the presentation have no financial interests that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation