Professional Organization Involvement in the Transition from Student Pharmacist to New Practitioner

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Introduction
- Membership in professional organizations provides experiences in professional stewardship, networking opportunities, and leadership
- There is an abundant amount of opportunity for both pharmacy students and new practitioners to become involved in professional organizations throughout school and post-graduation
- In the transition from pharmacy student to new practitioner, there is decreased involvement in professional organization membership

Objectives
- Evaluate the transition from pharmacy student to new practitioner and the retention of professional membership during the transition
- Research will assess students in first through fourth years on their current interests in organization membership and their thoughts on future membership as a post-graduate
- Research will also evaluate new practitioners by surveying last five years graduates on past involvement interest as a student and current involvement as a post-graduate.

Methods
- Cross-sectional study
- Self-administered online anonymous survey
- Survey contained questions that assess demographics, pharmacy student current involvement, pharmacy student past involvement as a student, pharmacy student future predictions of involvement, new practitioner current involvement, new practitioner past involvement as student and new practitioner, and new practitioner future predictions of involvement

Study Population
- Current Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy students
  - First through fourth year students; approximately 600 students
- Past Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy students
  - One to five years post-graduation; approximately 750 practitioners
- Estimate that this sample population will result in a 10% response rate (135 students and practitioners)

Data Collection
- Contact through email using Qualtrics online survey
  - 2 emails, each containing a link to our anonymous Qualtrics survey
  - Send these emails out every other week during fall 2016
- Known total of students/new practitioners per class will be used to assess response rate

Results

Respondents
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents No. (%)</th>
<th>Respondents No. (%)</th>
<th>Respondents No. (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students 92</td>
<td>P1 29 (32) P2 20 (22)</td>
<td>P3 19 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P1 29 (32) P2 20 (22)</td>
<td>P3 26 (38) 5 yr post-grad 9 (13)</td>
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<td>1 yr post-grad 17 (25) 4 yr post-grad 5 (7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 yr post-grad 26 (38) 5 yr post-grad 9 (13)</td>
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<td>3 yr post-grad 11 (16)</td>
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Respondents No. (%) Respondents No. (%)

Student Involvement
- Yes 90 (98)
- No 2 (2)

Practitioner Involvement
- Yes 54 (75)
- No 18 (25)

Reasons for Involvement
- Leadership 15%
- Networking 17%
- Career Development 17%
- Professional Involvement 19%

Reasons for Lack of Involvement
- Cost 29%
- Lack of interest in mission 18%
- Lack of value 14%

References

Disclosures
- Authors of this presentation have the following to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation:
  - Sara Gattis: Nothing to disclose
  - Bradley Wright: Nothing to disclose

Conclusions
- This study shows a decrease in professional organization involvement post-pharmacy school graduation with cost of membership and lack of time to commit being the top reasons
- Future studies following one population throughout pharmacy school into new practitioner status with larger populations are needed to show direct correlation
- These results may allow professional organizations to implement potential changes to increase new practitioner involvement by potentially lowering costs and encouraging practitioners that time invested is important in the development of careers
- Limitations to this study include the potential for recall bias, social desirability bias with the potential of participants downplaying or embellishing involvement, and confounders including the side-by-side comparison of current pharmacy students to current new practitioners as one population

Executive 30 (33)
Committee 15 (22)
Colleague or professor encouragement 0 (0)
Other 0 (0)