

Student pharmacists and their mentors took part in the poster session at Western Pharmacy Exchange 2023 on April 28-30, 2023 at the Paris Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. The Journal of Contemporary Pharmacy Practice is pleased share the abstracts from these poster presentations that inform pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists about best practices in pharmacist-provided patient care.

Perspectives of Student Pharmacists on the Recent Expansion and Opportunities of the Pharmacy Profession

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The team from WesternU: front row (left to right) Anna Pham, Shikha Khatri, Pauline Padua, Dia Cabrera; middle row: Ruby Tow, Erin Chiang, Daphne Lin and top row advisor Dr. Shawn Smith and Alvin Yeung.

Objective

The objective of this study is to determine student pharmacists' awareness of the expansion and opportunities of the pharmacy profession when considering pharmacy school.

Methods

A 29-question survey assessed participants' knowledge of various pharmacist roles before and during enrollment in pharmacy school, contributing factors to knowledge of those opportunities, and perceptions of recent advancements within the pharmacy profession.

Participants were recruited through email distribution of surveys to pharmacy schools in California via CAPSLEAD faculty advisors of each school along with various pharmacy organizations. Questions include demographics, exposure to

the pharmacy profession before and during pharmacy school, awareness of current legislations that impact the pharmacy profession, and awareness and sentiments regarding remote pharmacy careers. A comparative analysis was done per survey topic of students with no prior exposure and students with prior exposure.

For participants whose interests have changed throughout pharmacy school, the factors that impacted their decision and how they encountered those factors were assessed. The participants' awareness of pharmacy-related legislation and their views on how the legislation impacted the profession were assessed for any correlations to specific career choices.

Results

Sixty-eight percent of participants expressed changing their field of interest since beginning pharmacy school. The pharmacy school curriculum, followed by work experience and professional organizations, were the most influential factors in the participants' change in their field of interest. 85% of participants indicated that an increase in virtual opportunities for pharmacists would make the pharmacy profession more appealing to current and future students. Seventy-six percent of participants believe that an increase in virtual opportunities for pharmacists would positively impact patient-provider relationships compared to face-to-face patient contact.

Conclusion

To increase student awareness of the constantly evolving career opportunities, further emphasis should be placed on the importance of work experience and student participation in professional organizations.