



# Indian pharm. D: A pathway to clinical research?

Dear Editor,

Indian Pharm. D's have a broad base of knowledge in pharmacology, including clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, pharmacotherapy, and drug development process, as well as a strong understanding of human metabolism, and various disease pathologies. As well as Pharm. D training have knowledge on research subjects like clinical research, pharmacoepidemiology along with pharmacoconomics and good patient communication skills.<sup>[1]</sup> These skills can add a tremendous dimension to the clinical trials. Utilizing these skills the Pharm. D's can have a unique position to conduct research toward achieving optimal outcome in clinical studies and can pursue research in a range of therapeutic areas and health services.<sup>[2]</sup> Nurturing the academic research skills with clinical skills they can become a successful pharmacy researcher in clinical research. Currently, the Indian Pharm. D's are not much exposed to practical research during their training.<sup>[3]</sup> Hence, pharmacy schools should focus in developing practical research tracks for producing effective and competent Pharm. D researchers to develop key leadership roles in contract research organizations (CROs), industrial research and pharmaceutical firms earlier in their careers. In order to increase their skills, pharmacy schools may tie-up with CROs which can be critical for increasing the research experience and also helpful to pursue recruitment in research organizations. Moreover, Pharm. D's students undergoes rigorous clinical training and preceptors should encourage the enthusiastic students to focus on clinical questions in their own research careers, which may draw new attention for conducting novel approaches in research.<sup>[4]</sup> To ensure the above all, school should take steps to prepare Pharm. D's researchers with potential therapeutic strengths and molding them with

excellent qualitative research skills, and enhancing partnerships with other healthcare disciplines, research organizations and academic departments.

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