

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.^[1] 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.^[2] 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.^[3] 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.^[4] 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to thank Mr. Tahir Mehmood Khan, Editor, Archives of Pharmacy Practice Journal for providing the opportunity and support.

Akshaya Srikanth Bhagavathula

Department of Clinical Pharmacy Research, University of Gondar,
College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Gondar, Ethiopia

Address for correspondence:

Dr. B. Akshaya Srikanth,
University of Gondar, School of Pharmacy,
Gondar, Ethiopia.
E-mail: akshaypharmd@gmail.com

REFERENCES

1. Bhagavathula AS, Sarkar BR, Patel I. Clinical pharmacy practice in developing countries: Focus on India and Pakistan. Arch Pharma Pract 2014;5:91-4.
2. Overholser BR, Foster DR, Henry JR, Plake KS, Sowinski KM. The influence of an elective introductory clinical research course on pharmacy student interest in pursuing research-based careers. Am J Pharm Educ 2010;74:165.
3. Srikanth BA, Ahmad A, Reddy RK, Balkrishnan R, Nagappa AN. Acceptance of doctor of pharmacy in India: A survey based study. Arch Pharm Pract 2013;4:93-7.
4. Figg WD, Chau CH, Okita R, Preusch P, Tracy TS, McLeod H, *et al.* Pharm. D. pathways to biomedical research: The National Institutes of Health special conference on pharmacy research. Pharmacotherapy 2008;28:821-33.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:

www.archivepp.com

DOI:

10.4103/2045-080X.142052

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.