**BACKGROUND**

As community pharmacists strive to enhance the care provided to their patients through advanced patient care services, they often encounter barriers such as time and resources. The Partner for Promotion (PFP) program was developed by a community faculty member at The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy to support the growth of advanced patient care services in the community setting through a partnership of college of pharmacy faculty, students, and community pharmacies.

PFP is an elective 2 month community advanced pharmacy practice experiential (APPE) rotation. It includes one full calendar month on-site at a community pharmacy and 10 months of longitudinal experience at the same pharmacy. During this time, students and community pharmacist preceptors, along with faculty mentoring, follow a step-wise approach to establish a self-sustaining advanced patient care service. The PFP program has yielded outcomes in both teaching and practice that display impact on student training and the growth of advanced patient care services in community pharmacies.

**OBJECTIVES**

1) Enhance skills and confidence of students and community pharmacy preceptors to deliver and expand advanced patient care services in community pharmacies.

2) Create sustainable advanced patient care services in community pharmacies.

3) Increase number of quality community APPE sites for Ohio State University College of Pharmacy (OSU COP).

**FUNDING**

*Faculty time and internal grant funding for sites was additionally supported by an Ohio State University Excellence in Engagement Grant and an OSU Cares Grant.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

- Faculty recruit students and preceptors Winter/Spring quarters.
- In July prior to APPE, participants attend one-day orientation training session facilitated by faculty and complete pre-rotation skills survey. APPE commences in August.
- Throughout the 10-month longitudinal APPE, students and preceptors, with faculty mentoring, complete specific assignments directly corresponding to the steps of developing patient care services.
- Education, training, and resources related to the step-wise approach are provided by faculty.

**RESULTS**

Creation of APPE sites for OSU COP

- 19 new pharmacy sites/preceptors now offer APPE for OSU COP students

Program sustainability

- 14 of 21 pharmacies (67%) continue to offer the advanced patient care service developed through PFP
  - 5 of 7 2005-2006 programs (18 months post-PFP)
  - 9 of 14 2006-2007 programs (6 months post-PFP)
- 2 of 14 sustainable programs have different focus from that developed during PFP; based on PFP principles
- Shortage of adequate staffing and barriers to reimbursement often stated as reasons for discontinuation of the advanced patient care service
- Approximately 1400 patients visits have been conducted by the 14 ongoing pharmacy programs including: wellness screenings, immunizations, diabetes management, and others

**Skills Survey Results 2005 - 2007**

- Pre- and post-survey results demonstrate:
  - 52% increase in students’ perception of skills to practice in an innovative pharmacy
  - 53% increase in students’ perception of knowledge and skills to implement innovative services

**FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

- The Partner for Promotion program has successfully linked community pharmacists with faculty and students resulting in development and implementation of innovative pharmacy services. Faculty and students are currently working with 7 pharmacy sites and recruiting 9 additional pharmacy sites for the upcoming 08-09 academic year.

- Faculty plan to track and report clinical and economic outcomes for these sustainable pharmacy programs.

- Follow-up phone calls are monitoring career paths of PFP student graduates. Many graduates desire to develop and implement advanced patient care services in their current pharmacy settings.

- Several PFP student graduates have requested to serve as pharmacy preceptors for current PFP students.

**CHALLENGES**

- Significant challenges: pharmacy preceptor turnover and communication between pharmacies and corporate.

- Changes in recruitment practices and formal criteria for site involvement assisted with overcoming these barriers.