Guidelines and Resources in Public Health Curriculum and Education for Academic Pharmacy

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Introduction
From a sickness-based focus to a wellness-based focus, a paradigm shift is slowly occurring in health care. Prevention, wellness, and evidence-based public health education may be the key to this much needed shift. Pharmacists will have the opportunity to create and deliver prevention and wellness strategies, or more broadly, public health initiatives to improve population health. Academic pharmacy needs to be ready and prepared for this movement and to educate pharmacy students on public health. The purpose of this viewpoint is to connect and disseminate guidelines and resources in public health curriculum and education that will help academic pharmacy be at the forefront of public health education.

Guidelines: Clinical Prevention & Population Health Curriculum Framework by the Healthy People Curriculum Task Force and Master’s Degree in Public Health Core Competency Development Project by the Association of Schools of Public Health

The Clinical Prevention & Population Health Curriculum Framework (CPPHCF) is a guideline for public health education and curriculum set forth by various health professionals/associations who are a part of the Healthy People Curriculum Task Force. Academic Pharmacy and other professional schools who are developing public health programs such as the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree, should also be aware of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) guidelines: Masters Degree in Public Health Core Competency Development Project.

According to the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH) guidelines, the goals and primary learning objectives of an M.P.H. program center on preparing individuals to carry out broad public health functions in local, state, national, and international settings. To accomplish this, an M.P.H. curriculum is based upon the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) Core Competency Model. This model incorporates CEPH competency requirements in five discipline specific areas (Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental Health Science, Health Policy and Management, and Social and Behavioral Sciences) to constitute the core curriculum. The core curriculum is intended to give all students a strong set of fundamental skills that are necessary for careers in public health. Schools that are seeking accreditation from CEPH should be aware of these guidelines or schools that have or are planning certificate programs in public health.
Resources: Prevention Education Resource Center (PERC) and SuperCourse

The Prevention Education Resource Center (PERC, www.teachprevention.org) and SuperCourse websites (www.pitt.edu/~super1/index.htm) are online resources and libraries that focus on public health and global health, respectively. In the inaugural issue of the AACP Public Health SIG Newsletter (November 2009), Dr. Jack Fincham, Editor-in-Chief of PERC, discussed its background, utility, and benefits. A similar and perhaps complimentary online resource is the SuperCourse website. According to the founder, Dr. Ronald LaPorte, SuperCourse has over 50,000 faculty members from 174 countries. This “Global Health Network” is the largest network in global health. The faculty disciplines in the network are diverse; they are the largest conglomeration of teachers of global health and prevention. The online library has over 4,500 lectures from Nobel Prize winners, the head of the NIH and CDC, Ministries of Health, etc. The sharing of PowerPoint lecture slides to fit the topic and audience is highly encouraged. It is estimated that SuperCourse has taught 6 million students last year. To double global health training is another goal of SuperCourse and its Network. They have worked on a collaborative project with the World Health Organization (WHO) identifying leaders (Deans of medical and public health schools and Heads of Ministries of Health, etc.) about global health issues and promoting the SuperCourse website/library.

Conclusion

Pharmacy is in a viable position to deal with the chronic and preventable diseases that negatively impact global and public health. We should figure out ways to connect and disseminate guidelines and resources in public health curriculum and education to move pharmacy forward and to proactively implement evidence-based public health practices. With the recent introduction of Healthy People 2020 and provisions in wellness by the Patient Care Affordability Act, all health-care professionals and educators should be aware of opportunities, guidelines, and resources that will help them optimize their practice, and effectively address public and population health issues. We have been encouraged by Dr. LaPorte to work with SuperCourse and to develop a Pharmacy SuperCourse.

References

SIG Collaboration within the American Public Health Association (APHA)
Suzanne Clark, PhD, RPh (University of Wyoming) and Meghana Aruru, PhD (Midwestern University)

Members of the AACP Public Health SIG met at the 138th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Denver (Nov 6-9, 2010) to collaborate on potential ideas and to create an ad-hoc group of Pharmacy Professionals and Faculty Members interested in Public Health issues. We have thus created a Public Health Pharmacy Ad Hoc Group that will seek to create, advise and implement public health principles and practices in the field of Pharmacy Education, Practice, Research, and Publication. We have identified two avenues within the APHA to focus our work – the Drug Policy and Pharmacy Services (DPPS) Committee which falls under the Medical Care Section and the Public Health Education and Health Promotion (PHEHP) Section. As part of our collaboration, we seek to present research findings, thought pieces and other policy advocacy issues within these two sections at the APHA annual meeting in 2011. If you have any questions, members of this group will be at the AACP meeting in Texas. We are seeking collaborations with interested practitioners, academicians and public health professionals. If you are interested in being a part of this group, wish to be included in the list serve, or to join our Google Groups site, contact: Meghana Aruru (maruru@midwestern.edu), Hoai-An Truong (htruong@rx.umearyland.edu), or Suzanne Clark (suzanne.clark@uwyo.edu). For specific questions about the DPPS and PHEHP committees within APHA, please contact Meghana or Hoai-An, respectively. Photos compliments of Dr. Hoai-An Truong. Many thanks, to Dr. John Conry for his support and assistance with this project.

Left to right in photo:
1. Hoai-An Truong, PharmD, MPH (University of Maryland)
2. Meghana Aruru, PhD (Midwestern University)
3. Audrey Jacobson, MD, MPH, MA (Touro College of Pharmacy, Touro University, NYC)
4. Patricia Shane, PhD, MPH (Touro University, Vallejo, CA)
5. Suzanne Clark, PhD, RPh (University of Wyoming)
6. Roger A. Edwards, ScD (Northeastern University)
7. Marion Slack, PhD (University of Arizona)
8. Leslie A. Mooney, PharmD (University of Arkansas Medical Science)
9. Kem P. Kruger, PhD, PharmD (University of Wyoming)
10. Stuart Feldman, PhD (Touro College of Pharmacy, Touro University, NYC)
Submitted Citations for SIG Member Scholarship Relating to Public Health
July-December 2010

Christian Albano (North Dakota State University):

Vibhuti Arya (St. John’s University):

Jack Fincham (University of Missouri, Kansas City):

Rahul Khanna (University of Mississippi):

Carrie Maffeo (Butler University):

Hoai-An Truong (University of Maryland):
• Truong HA, Patterson BY. Professional and educational initiatives, supports, and opportunities for advanced training in public health. Am J Pharm Educ. 2010; 74(7): Article 122.
  • Boyle CJ, Talluto BA, Truong HA. Public health concepts, applications, and resources for experiential education.
  • Brandt, NJ, Truong HA, Onunka L. Improving medication use in older adults
  • Bresette JL, Truong HA, Sellers JA. Pharmacist in public health.
  • Kahaleh AA, Youmans SL, Bresette JL, Truong HA. Health behavior theories and models: frameworks for health promotion and health education programs.
  • Owen JA, Burns A, Truong HA. Medication therapy management: improving public health.
  • Truong HA, DiPietro ND, Hayes MA. Strategies and Opportunities for Students’ Involvement in Public Health.

Cindy Tworek (West Virginia University):

Diana Vinh (West Virginia University):
The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation Demonstration Grant ($25,000 award). Innovative pharmacist-led strategies to promote health care worker influenza immunization.
Goal: Utilize social media and other unique approaches to increase healthcare worker influenza vaccination rates.
**Dear SIG Members,**

I am happy to inform you that our SIG’s membership continues to grow rapidly. As of mid-October, our SIG membership was up to 462 members! The SIG has shown significant growth since its inception, which I believe reflects the increasing recognition of the role of the pharmacy profession and academy in public health. Health promotion and disease prevention continues to receive national attention, largely due to the recent approval of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Healthy People 2020. It is critical that the profession of pharmacy has a dialog and collective voice on issues of public health and our SIG serves as a vehicle to facilitate this collaboration and communication within and outside the pharmacy academy.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of our SIG that have volunteered to serve on SIG committees for 2010-2011. The tremendous response to my call for committee service was inspiring. The SIG’s executive committee set ambitious committee goals and is confident in the leadership and enthusiasm of the committees that we will accomplish much together this academic year.

I hope you enjoyed this current newsletter issue which demonstrates the productivity of members of our SIG. I do encourage our members to contribute to the Abstract and Roundtable Submissions for the 2011 AACP Annual Meeting. I have highlighted the deadlines for submissions and other AACP news in this newsletter. This is a great way to share with our colleagues the excellent work our SIG is doing in teaching Public Health within our professional programs. I am looking forward to a productive year for the SIG.

Best wishes to all of you and your families for a peaceful holiday season and happy, healthy 2011!

*Sincerely,
John M. Conry, Pharm.D., BCPS, AAHIVE
Chair, Public Health SIG
St. John’s University*