Evaluation of Geriatric Content in a Doctor of Pharmacy Curriculum

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BACKGROUND

- The older adult population is expected to grow to ~89 million by 2050.
- An Institute of Medicine report, "Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce," addressed the lack of healthcare providers to meet the needs of an aging population and suggested improving educational curricula and training programs to enhance geriatric competency.
- The 2016 Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education Standards and Guidelines do not require geriatrics in Doctor of Pharmacy curriculums.
- Doctor of Pharmacy curriculums lacking development of or delaying incorporation of geriatric-specific content have contributed to insufficient student training in this area.
- To better prepare pharmacy students for providing care to older adults, The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) published recommendations in a Geriatric Pharmacy Curriculum Guide.

RESULTS

1. Results reported from Course Coordinators:

   - 97% of topics listed in ASCP guide were addressed in the curriculum.

2. Results from Course Syllabi and Lecture Note Review:

   - 33% of the courses taught included geriatric content.
   - Majority of these courses were pharmacotherapy and special population courses.

DISCUSSION

- Several of the topics were originally moved from our geriatric elective into the main curriculum during the last major curriculum change, but with topic integration, the content has become reduced over time.
- Completing a comprehensive evaluation of geriatric content taught in our curriculum identified topics that are inadequately covered, providing an opportunity to enhance curricular offerings in order to improve students' knowledge in caring for older adults.

CONCLUSION

- To assess the integration of essential geriatrics content into the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Doctor of Pharmacy program curriculum.
- The curriculum mapping had two parts:
  1. Course coordinators documented the corresponding geriatric topics covered in their courses.
  2. An in-depth review of course syllabi and lecture handouts verified the geriatric content in each course.

REFERENCES

3. Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Accreditation Standards and Key Elements for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. 2015.

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Authors of this poster have not financial disclosures.