An International Collaboration on Sustainable Workforce Development and Implementation of a Doctor of Pharmacy Program

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Introduction

- The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 3 calls for an (1) increase the training and retention of health care workers in developing countries, and (2) support the research and development of medications and vaccines for noncommunicable diseases (NCDS).
- A State University of New York (SUNY)-University of the West Indies (UWI) task force was developed and implemented to promote health and wellness.

Objectives

- The UWI, Mona Campus, and University at Buffalo (UB) School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty have identified educational and implementation research priorities to expand education and research approaches for pharmacists to participate with public health prevention initiatives.

Methods

- In 2016-2017, a needs assessment was conducted between UB SPPS and The UWI Research Task force.

Scholarship and Outreach

Diabetes Mellitus (DM) Research:

- NCD Research
- Needs assessment: (1) To develop a national Type 1 DM patient registry in Jamaica for tracking and intervene on patients, (2) To track currently unknown prescribing patterns and medication use for patients with Type 2 DM in Jamaica
- Development of an Interdisciplinary Team

- Type 1 DM: n=100 to be completed. Research protocols approved, tablets donated and delivered, data collection beginning
- Type 2 DM: Research protocol developed for Ethics Review

Curricular Collaborations

Post BS Pharm.D. Curriculum

- Advanced pharmacy practice training in Jamaica
- Needs assessment: (1) Pharmacy experts teaching in the areas of need, (2) Provide advanced rotations in the US for Post BS PharmD students
- Areas of need/expertise: NCDs: Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Oncology; Communicable Disease: Infectious Diseases
- Fall-Spring Didactic Training via Zoom
- Conferences: Pharma Meet, UWI-BU Internship Welcome to Jamaica, UWI-Fellows

- UB-UWI Fellow coordinated and lectured in a drug information and U.S. healthcare course.
- UB faculty assisted in teaching a pharmacy career class.

Curricular Collaborations

Introductory Pharmacy Experiences for US Students

- Global Health Training and Research Opportunities
- Needs assessment: 1) To expose US students to global health implementation research with the UB-UWI Research Task force, promote cultural exchange, and instruct students on care in resource limited settings
- Curriculum aligned with the FIP and CUGH competencies
- 4 students attended the program in June 2017

Limitations

- An interdisciplinary team and university leadership is critical to achieve programmatic success.
- Utilized an in-country fellow, which may not be available to all schools, but faculty from either partnership can substitute.
- In-country laws and programmatic requirements vary and flexibility needs to be considered.
- Program funding is an ongoing challenge and needs to be addressed.
- Pilot programs are time consuming but important to establishing larger programmatic success.

Conclusions

- International collaborations can assist universities with building a PharmD program, and promoting research to build capacity.
- Financial considerations are the largest constraint and can be addressed through internal mechanisms or grants.

References

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