

Fellowship Programs and Career Tracks

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Outline

- **Definition of a fellowship**
- **Fellowship programs**
 - Academic fellowship
 - Industry fellowship
- **How to get started?**
 - Which fellowship to pick from?
 - What are the barriers/obstacles?
- **Career opportunities from fellowships**
- **Panel session of current fellows**

Definition

- A fellowship is a “directed, highly individualized, postgraduate program developed to prepare the participant to become an independent researcher.”*
- However, there is a little bit more to add to this definition...

**American College of Clinical Pharmacy. <http://www.accp.com/resandfel/guidelines.aspx>
(accessed 05 October 2010)*

Definition – cont'd

- **The previous definition is academically focused.**
- **The definition does not consider how a fellowship is viewed from an industry perspective.**
- **The previous definition needs to consider what types of careers/jobs will be available upon completion of a fellowship.**

Fellowship Types - Academic Fellowship

Academic Fellowships

- **Setting: College, University and/or hospital**
 - (some fellowships can be divided; 1 year at an academic institution, another year in industry)
- **Duration: 2 to 3 years**
- **Previous experience: Completion of residency is usually required (there are exceptions)**
- **Salary: varies ~\$40K/yr**
 - Bassett Healthcare from 2002-2004 (\$28-30K/yr)

Academic Fellowships – cont'd

- **Generally an split of your time b/t research-related and clinically-related functions.**
 - **Key point: The majority of time will be spent on research-related functions**
 - **This contrasts the amount of time spent for research-related functions for a residency**



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<http://www.accp.com/resandfel/search.aspx>

Industry Fellowships

- **Setting: Pharmaceutical or Biotech company**
- **Duration: 1 to 2 years**
 - **Some fellowships can be divided; 1 year at an academic institution, another year in industry**
- **Previous experience: None (residency is not required)**
- **Salary: varies; \$40-60K/year**

Industry Fellowships

- Experiences gained in several areas or departments:
 - Medical Affairs
 - Medical Communications/Education
 - Global Marketing/Market Research
 - R & D Strategy and Analysis
 - Clinical Operations/Clinical Research
 - Clinical Pharmacology/Early Development
 - Regulatory Affairs

**Which fellowship to pick
from?**

Fellowship Selection

The most important determinant to fellowship selection = Program reputation*

- **Questions to ask**
 - Are preceptors renowned for their clinical, teaching, or research experience?
 - How long has the program been in existence?
 - How many fellows have completed the program?
 - What is the retention rate of fellows?
 - How are fellows treated (responsibilities)?

**Senst BL, et al. Am J Hosp Pharm 1990*

Fellowship Selection – cont'd

- **Area of Pharmacy research**
 - What are the research areas available? Program location? Working environment?
- **Potential for career advancement**
 - Current positions of past fellows? Will program completion improve employment opportunities or fulfill career objectives?
- **Teaching opportunities?**
- **Benefits package**
 - Paid sick, holiday, vacation leave? Reimbursement for professional expenses? Relocation reimbursement? Health insurance coverage?
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Recommendations from current/past fellows? Amount of salary/stipend? How many fellows are accepted

**What are the
barriers/obstacles?**

Potential barriers/obstacles

- **Financial**
 - Reduced salary/stipend
 - Repayment of student loans
- **Options are available**
 - Postponement of federal educational loans (loan deferment)
 - Federal agencies (NIH) may be able to repay a significant portion of educational loans*
- **Program location**
 - Out of state? BUT relocation expenses may be covered
- **Fellowships that are not ACCP-approved**
- **Applicant selection process – academic success**
 - NOT the sole factor

**National Institute of Health. <http://www.lrp.nih.gov/> (accessed 13 August 2013).*

Career Opportunities from a fellowship

Career Opportunities

- Opportunities for the 'non-traditional' careers
- Depends on what area you focused on during fellowship
- For example, if fellowship had emphasis in clinical pharmacology/drug metabolism, fellows who completed the Bassett Healthcare fellowship were employed in
 - Biotech and/or pharmaceutical industry
 - Academia (Clinical vs. Basic Sciences faculty track)
 - Government (FDA CDER/CBER Office of Clinical Pharmacology)
 - Consulting for various biotech/pharma. companies

Panel Session

- **Youngil Chang, PharmD, MS**
Graduate: Gregory School of Pharmacy, Palm Beach Atlantic University, FL
Organ Transplantation Fellow, Western University, Pomona, CA
Email: changy@westernu.edu
- **Lisa Lam, PharmD**
Graduate: UCSF School of Pharmacy
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- **Jeff Penzner, PharmD**
Graduate: USC School of Pharmacy
Fellow in Clinical Development, Retina/Glaucoma Therapeutic Area at Allergan
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- **Sarwang Shah, PharmD**
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