Fellowship Programs and Career Tracks

Joseph D. Ma, PharmD
joema@ucsd.edu
Associate Professor, SSPPS

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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...

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
Search Directory

Please perform your search by selecting the criteria for your interests (Default settings will return all listed):

- Specialty
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- Program Type

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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 renown 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)?

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

Career Opportunities from a fellowship
Career Opportunities

• Opportunities for the ‘non-traditional’ careers
• Depends on what area your 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
  Clinical Pharmacology Oncology Pfizer/UCSD fellow
  Email: lisalam@ucsd.edu

• Jeff Penzner, PharmD
  Graduate: USC School of Pharmacy
  Fellow in Clinical Development, Retina/Glaucoma Therapeutic Area at Allergan
  Email: penzner_jeff@allergan.com

• Sarwang Shah, PharmD
  Graduate: Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
  Fellowship role: Medical Affairs, Publications
  Email: shah_sarwang@allergan.com