Dear Pharmacist,

There have been significant changes occurring with respect to experiential education in pharmacy that significantly impact not only Colleges of Pharmacy, but practitioners across the country as well. Beginning with the Doctor of Pharmacy class entering in the fall of 2007, standards governing national pharmacy education were revised and included more defined Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) requirements. This was an important and necessary revision because the standards governing IPPEs up to this time allowed for significant variability in quality and quantity of introductory experience among schools of pharmacy across the country. The current guidelines for IPPEs according to The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) are as follows:

- IPPE’s must involve actual practice experiences in community and institutional settings and permit students, under appropriate supervision and as permitted by practice regulations, to assume direct patient care responsibilities
- IPPE’s should begin early in the curriculum, be interfaced with didactic coursework, and continue in a progressive manner leading to entry into the advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs)
- 300 IPPE hours must be completed over the course of the curriculum prior to students beginning APPEs, which includes actual practice experience and activities such as service-learning projects and shadowing health care providers
- Practice experience gained through IPPE’s must be non-paid

We have been working to develop an (IPPE) program at The University of Toledo that provides a good learning experience for the students while being feasible for preceptors. Beginning with this year’s new P1 (first professional year) class of fall 2009, we’re making every effort to assign each student to their IPPE sites. In the past, students have been responsible for identifying their own sites, which has been a big challenge to students and burdensome to preceptors who often received numerous calls from students seeking sites.

Each student will be assigned to one community and one institutional IPPE site. The student will remain at these sites throughout their P1 – P3 years to complete all IPPE hours. At the end of the P3 year, each student will have gained 120 hours in each practice setting.

We have created objectives to help guide the experience. The objectives for the P1 students are enclosed for your review, and objectives for the P2 and P3 students will follow. Additionally, students are asked to document their learning by completing assignments related to pharmacy ethics, drug information, interventions, pharmaceutical calculations, and pharmacy law. These assignments will be maintained in the students’ portfolios for review by the experiential coordinators, and will hopefully serve as a tool for students to reflect on their professional growth.

If you’re interested in precepting IPPE students, we simply need to know how many students your facility is able to accommodate (i.e. 2 students per year). If you have any questions before deciding on a number, please don’t hesitate to contact us. We are making every effort to visit all of our experiential sites to discuss the IPPE program as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued dedication to UT and commitment to our students!

Sincerely,

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