PHARMACY

A Prescription for a Rewarding Career©

Miriam C. Purnell, Pharm.D.
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice & Administration
Director, Drug Information Center
School of Pharmacy
Overview

• Why Pharmacy?
• Evolution of Pharmacy
• What do Pharmacists do?
• Career Options
• Job Outlook
• Is Pharmacy for You?
Why Pharmacy?

- A well-rounded career
- A vital part of the health care team
- Outstanding career opportunities
- Excellent earning potential
- A trusted profession
Evolution of the Pharmacy Profession

Dispensing/Compounding

Patient Oriented Services:
- Pharmaceutical Care
- Medication Therapy Management
Pharmaceutical Care

• The provision of drug therapy to improve a patient’s life by:
  – Preventing disease
  – Stopping or slowing a disease
  – Eliminating or reducing symptoms
Medication Therapy Management

- Partnership of the pharmacist, the patient or their caregiver, and other health professionals
- Promotes safe and effective use of medications
- Helps patients achieve the intended result from medication therapy
Medication Therapy Management

- Clinical pharmacist provides medication therapy management services by reviewing a patient’s medications for:
  - Drug interactions
  - Duplications of drugs from the same class
  - Appropriateness of doses, routes of administration, and the formulation the patient is using
  - Evaluation of medication habits to optimize benefits to a specific drug
What Do Pharmacists Do?

• Educate patients about prescription and over-the-counter medications

• Advise other health care professionals on drug decisions for patients

• Provide expertise about the composition of drugs, their use, and possible side effects

• Ensure drugs do not interact in a harmful way

• Ensure drug purity and strength
True or False:

PHARMACISTS are Drug Information Experts

No one knows more about medications than pharmacists
Pharmacy Career Options

- Academic Pharmacy
- Community Pharmacy
- Drug Information
- Government Agencies/Uniformed (Public Health) Service
- Hospice & Home Care
- Hospital & Institutional Practice
- Independent Ownership
- Long-term Care/Consulting Pharmacy
- Managed Care Pharmacy
- Medical & Scientific Publishing
- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Trade & Professional Associations
Shortage of Pharmacists

- Nationwide shortage of pharmacists throughout U.S. in various industries*
- Shortage expected to last into the foreseeable future
- Why?
  - Increase in number of new prescription medicines
  - Growing elderly population
  - Greater demand for patient care
  - Growth in community pharmacy

* According to the results of the National Pharmacist Workforce Survey (2006) and the HRSA BHPR National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (2000).
Job Outlook

• Nationwide Shortage = Increased Demand

• Student pharmacists can expect multiple job offers at graduation

• Median salary in 2007 = $107,403  
  *According to DrugTopics.com

• Regional mobility - Demand for pharmacists is widespread in U.S.

• Opportunities to work in wide variety of health care and industry settings
Should YOU Be a Pharmacist?

DO YOU LIKE...

• Chemistry, Biology, and Math?
• To Help People?
• To Solve Problems and Puzzles?

ARE YOU...

• Dependable? Organized?
• Detail-Oriented?
• Able to Communicate Well with Others?

If you answered YES, pharmacy may be the right career for you!