

Introduction:

Student pharmacists' global engagement has demonstrated positive patient impacts; however, limited opportunities exist for student pharmacists at Purdue University College of Pharmacy (PUCOP). The aim of this study was to identify the needs for increasing global engagement experiences offered at PUCOP.

Methods:

A survey was developed and distributed to all first, second, and third year student pharmacists at PUCOP. This survey occurred between August 31, 2016 and September 22, 2016. The specific locations of interest included existing programs in Kenya and the United Kingdom (UK) and potential future sites in Colombia and Tanzania. The survey questions were classified into 5 categories. Descriptive statistics were computed to analyze the results.

Results:

The survey was sent to a total of 460 students and 148 of them participated. One hundred and thirty-two students (89.2%) were interested in global health and/or international clinical rotations. The majority of students were interested in going to London, UK (56.2%) whereas 23.1% for Eldoret, Kenya, 13.1% for Colombia, and 7.7% for Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. The top three reasons for participation were "to explore differences in medical care outside of the US" (13.0%), "challenge myself" (12.5%), and "work in an interdisciplinary team including attending physicians, residents and medical students" (11.5%).

Conclusion:

This study demonstrated PUCOP student pharmacists desire participation in global engagement opportunities. In addition to expanding current partnerships in Kenya and the UK, there is necessity to explore opportunities for partnerships with key universities in Colombia and Tanzania.

Keywords: international pharmacy, Kenya, clinical advance pharmacy practice experience (APPE)