Pharmacy Practice and Research: The Development of a University Collaboration in Colombia

Background: The Purdue University College of Pharmacy recently approved a set of strategic initiatives including a section on global engagement. One of the six goals related to the enhancement of global engagement was: “Explore opportunities for partnerships with key universities in Colombia”. In addition to the strategic initiatives, student pharmacists were surveyed about interest in global engagement and advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs). There was a 40% response rate and 90% (165 students) were interested in an international or global health APPE. There were 21 students who ranked Colombia as their first choice of locations for an APPE if they could only choose one location. There were 91 students who would consider an APPE in Colombia.

Objective: The objective was to develop a plan for bilateral collaboration within pharmacy with the University of Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia.

Design: Two site visits were conducted to evaluate collaboration partnerships. During these visits faculty and administration met together to understand the strengths of each institution and identify areas of focus to collaborate.

Outcome: Faculty developed a “Road Map” for collaboration. This working document includes a timeline, responsible parties, and key descriptions of collaborative activities. Areas of focus include research exchanges, faculty short-course provision, and experiential training.

Conclusion: The Purdue College of Pharmacy and the University of Antioquia have initiated the steps to strengthen partnerships and collaboration. Future plans include working to accomplish the goals set forth in the Road Map.