

PHARMD SPOTLIGHT



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1. What classes in pharmacy school have best prepared you for your current fellowship and why?

Evidence-based medicine prepared me well as it taught us how to interpret clinical trials and statistical tests used for analysis. I am frequently running literature searches in my role and it is integral to know whether a study is a strong one or not. Additionally, our drug development class was a great preparation for my fellowship as understanding each phase of the drug development process is important for knowing the types of studies that need to be developed for our pipeline drugs or real-world evidence generation.

2. When did you first become exposed to the opportunities that pharmacists can have in the pharmaceutical industry and what steps did you take to learn more about this unique path for pharmacists?

I was first exposed to the pharmaceutical industry when one of my mentors became a Medical Science Liaison (MSL). Speaking with him about his role opened the door to industry, and led to me exploring other functional areas that PharmDs could work in. To learn more, I spoke with other PharmDs in the industry and completed a 6-week APPE rotation at a pharmaceutical company.

3. What role has networking played in your career and what advice would you give to pharmacy students who are interested in networking but don't know where to begin?

Networking has played a huge role in my career so far. If it wasn't for connecting with my mentors, I wouldn't have had a majority of the opportunities I did during pharmacy school. For students that are interested in starting to network, I would recommend reaching out to people you have a connection with, such as school alumni or a professor that taught you in class. Once you get more comfortable networking, then you can start expanding and reaching out to people that work in therapeutic areas or functional areas you are interested in. Most people in pharma that I reached out to were more than happy to help me navigate the pharmaceutical industry as they were in my position not too long ago! (And now, I am happy to do the same for students curious about industry!)

4. What do you enjoy the most about your position in the pharmaceutical industry?

I enjoy not being focused in on a single functional area within medical affairs. When I started my fellowship, I wasn't sure where I wanted to work, so having the opportunity to work on projects across all of medical affairs has been great. Additionally, being at a fairly new company as one of the founding fellows, I get to help further develop our fellowship and take on a higher level of responsibility, which I enjoy greatly.

