

APhA-ASP INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AWARD

Pharmacogenomics Chairs University of Florida

Description

Our Pharmacogenomics (PGx) Chairs work to raise awareness of personalized medicine's benefits to pharmacy. They have designed and shared monthly colorful infographics highlighting a different area of PGx. To further involve students, they created an annual pharmacogenomics patient case competition. Competition participants were provided with a patient case accompanied by individual genetic results. The goal was to use the genetic information, along with other clinical factors, to optimize the patient's medication regimen; maximizing benefits and minimizing risks.

Methods

The pharmacogenomics chairs were able to capitalize on the many faculty and staff members at the university with pharmacogenomic experience. They have brought in speakers from across the country who implement PGx in practice or actively participate in research in the field. Additionally, faculty members screen our annual patient case competition content.

Timeline/Planning

Began in 2020 as simple monthly infographics and spiked a lot of engagement on social media. The immense interest in the topic was obvious, and so our organization facilitated the position in response.

Impact/Outcomes

Enhancing our education: Our monthly infographics are typically curated by a group first- and second-year students working under the guidance of the pharmacogenomic chairs. These students get the opportunity to practice researching and summarizing complex topic in easy-to-understand terms, while the student body learns about a new, fun topic every month.

Putting our knowledge to practice: Over 30 students have participated in the PGx patient case competition in the last 2 years. These students have a unique opportunity to apply their pharmacogenetic knowledge to the complexities of a realistic patient case.

Future Ideas/Learnings

We hope to expand our PGx patient case competition beyond our chapter and allow student pharmacists from other schools to participate. We hope to increase our impact on not only our student pharmacists but for our community, through community outreach initiatives (e.g. farmers markets) to increase awareness about the benefits of personalized medicine.

