2012

Pharmacy-Student Outreach: Bridging the Gap from an Inner-City High School to Pharmacy School

Jennifer L. Mathews  
*St. John Fisher College, jmathews@sjfc.edu*

Chirag Dave  
*St. John Fisher College*

Mohammad Mohammad  
*St. John Fisher College*

Gabriela Cipriano  
*St. John Fisher College, gcipriano@sjfc.edu*

Fang Zhao  
*St. John Fisher College, fzhao@sjfc.edu*

See next page for additional authors

How has open access to Fisher Digital Publications benefited you?  
Follow this and additional works at: [http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/pharmacy_facpub](http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/pharmacy_facpub)

Part of the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Commons, and the Science and Mathematics Education Commons

Publication Information  
Mathews, Jennifer L.; Dave, Chirag; Mohammad, Mohammad; Cipriano, Gabriela; Zhao, Fang; and Lowry, Brooke, "Pharmacy-Student Outreach: Bridging the Gap from an Inner-City High School to Pharmacy School" (2012). *Pharmacy Faculty Publications*. Paper 3.  
[http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/pharmacy_facpub/3](http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/pharmacy_facpub/3)  
Please note that the Publication Information provides general citation information and may not be appropriate for your discipline. To receive help in creating a citation based on your discipline, please visit [http://libguides.sjfc.edu/citations](http://libguides.sjfc.edu/citations).

This document is posted at [http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/pharmacy_facpub/3](http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/pharmacy_facpub/3) and is brought to you for free and open access by Fisher Digital Publications at St. John Fisher College. For more information, please contact fisherpub@sjfc.edu.
Pharmacy-Student Outreach: Bridging the Gap from an Inner-City High School to Pharmacy School

Abstract
A poster describing a program at Thomas A. Edison High School that aimed to educate students on the educational requirements for pharmacy school and career opportunities within the profession.

Disciplines
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences | Science and Mathematics Education

Comments
Poster presented at Faculty Scholarship Celebration, St. John Fisher College, October 25, 2012.

Authors
Jennifer L. Mathews, Chirag Dave, Mohammad Mohammad, Gabriela Cipriano, Fang Zhao, and Brooke Lowry

This poster presentation is available at Fisher Digital Publications: http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/pharmacy_facpub/3
Pharmacy-Student Outreach: Bridging the Gap from an Inner-City High School to Pharmacy School

Jennifer L. Mathews, Ph.D.; Chirag Davé, PharmD; Mohammad Mohammad, PharmD; Gabriela Cipriano, PharmD; Fang Zhao, Ph.D.; Brooke Lowry, PharmD

Wegmans School of Pharmacy, St. John Fisher College, Rochester, New York 14618

OBJECTIVE
This program aimed to educate local high school students on the educational requirements for pharmacy school and career opportunities within the profession.

INTRODUCTION
It has been suggested that college outreach programs can have positive effects on students’ educational outcomes and that exposure to science and science in practice may increase students’ interest in the discipline. Outreach programs have become an important part of creating a generation of students that are scientifically literate and interested in pursuing science careers. President Obama has launched an “Educate to Innovate” campaign aimed at increasing student participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Efforts within the campaign call for scientists to work with these students and to help them excel in science and math.

A recent article (2010) in JAMA highlights the unique role that professional programs can play in promoting excitement about science and healthcare to young people by connecting them with strong role models, state-of-the-art laboratories, and innovative technology. These same programs can also “expose low-income and ethnic minority students to the culture of higher education, expand their knowledge base, and convey the need for them to enter science and health-related careers.”

METHODS
The outreach program was conducted with Thomas A. Edison High School (80% African American, 6% Hispanic). The program consisted of 2 phases and targeted 9th and 10th grade students in the STEM program.

Phase-1 consisted of a presentation at the high school that included information about prerequisites, the admissions process, curriculum, and pharmacy career paths. The presentation included faculty members from both the pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice departments as well as P4 students.

Phase-2 consisted of the same students visiting the Wegmans School of Pharmacy. Students were given a tour and conducted a laboratory exercise. At the conclusion of both phases a voluntary survey was administered.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE PHARMACISTS
The educational path required to be a Pharmacist continues to grow in length and rigor. Thus, entry into the profession requires proper planning and education for a young student interested in pursuing this career. Providing early education gives exposure to students not only in the career of Pharmacy, but in the healthcare profession as a whole.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
Continued programming and exposure to pharmacy will help encourage these high school students to consider pharmacy as a profession.

Utilizing pharmacy students in the outreach is beneficial because they can relate to the students and help bridge the gap between the schools.

Additionally, programs such as these encourage pharmacy students to give back to their community and incorporate service into their daily lives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Mr. Brian Jacobs, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School, STEM program. Special thanks to WSOP students, Cara Patrick, Shawn Gao, and Robert Sold, for their assistance in conducting the laboratory exercise.

REFERENCES

SURVEY QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUES</th>
<th>General Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>I am very interested in the medical profession as my career. (4.3/5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>I am very interested in Pharmacy, specifically, as my career. (4.3/5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>The presentation at my school was helpful in giving me an idea of what Pharmacy is like as a career. (4.5/5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>After being at the presentation, I feel more interested in Pharmacy as a career. (5/5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>I would recommend that pharmacy students staff hold information sessions at my school in the future. (4.5/5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>The session at the WSOP building helped me learn more about Pharmacy as a career. (4.1/5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>I liked pharmacy a lot more now. (4.5/5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>I would be interested in more Pharmacy-related activities at the WSOP. (4.5/5.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULTS
Survey questions were evaluated using a Likert Scale (1= SD; 5= SA).

Students (n=43) agreed with the following statements:
- (#1) I am very interested in the medical profession as my career. (4.3/5.0)
- (#3) The presentation at my school was helpful in giving me an idea of what Pharmacy is like as a career. (4.5/5.0)
- (#4) After being at the presentation, I feel more interested in Pharmacy as a career. (5/5)
- (#5) I would recommend that pharmacy students staff hold information sessions at my school in the future. (4.5/5.0)
- (#6) The session at the WSOP building helped me learn more about Pharmacy as a career. (4.1/5.0)
- (#7) I liked pharmacy a lot more now. (4.5/5.0)
- (#8) I would be interested in more Pharmacy-related activities at the WSOP. (4.5/5.0)

STUDENT RESPONSE DATA

SURVEY QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUES</th>
<th>I am coming to college here</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>I am coming to college here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>I like your school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>I am not sure if I want to do pharmacy or nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>I like pharmacy a lot more now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>I am not sure if I want to do pharmacy or nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>You should do this activity more often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>I like your school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>I am coming to college here</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT COMMENTS
- I had fun in the lab
- The students did a good job
- I liked making the hand gel
- I like pharmacy a lot more now
- I am not sure if I want to do pharmacy or nursing
- You should do this activity more often
- I like your school
- I am coming to college here