

## Shadowing at a Managed Care Organization

### University of Pittsburgh

#### Overview

Student pharmacists from the University of Pittsburgh traveled to Novo Nordisk Corporate Headquarters located in Plainsboro, NJ to tour the company and network with pharmacist within various departments of pharma. Programming for the day included an overview of the company, products, and biotech department, a Q&A session with the fellowship director, career pathway presentations from 11 pharmacists within the company, a network luncheon, and tour of the corporate headquarters.

#### Purpose

Being geographically isolated from industry in Western PA, it is hard for student pharmacists to understand the roles of a pharmacist within pharma. Negative connotations with the pharmaceutical industry may also discourage student pharmacists from pursuing such careers. Thus, the aim of this trip was to provide student pharmacists with unique exposure to the field in hopes of improving relationships between industry and student pharmacists. Additionally, we hoped to establish APPE rotations with Novo Nordisk after visiting the company and improve our connections with the company. The AMCP student chapter at Pitt is dedicated to the professional development of its members and strives to educate student pharmacists about non-conventional career options.

#### Project Budget

##### Expenses

Tolls were \$35 each way x7 drivers: \$490  
Gas allotted was \$40 each way x 7 drivers: \$560  
Hotel Rooms were \$112 per room x 7 rooms: \$784  
Gifts for coordinator and pharmacists: \$100  
Total expenses: \$1,934

##### Revenues

\$50 cost of attending x 30 students: \$1,500  
Dean sponsored the gifts for the pharmacists and coordinator: \$100  
Total revenue: \$1,600

The chapter budget contributed the difference of \$334

## **Who was involved?**

Planning committee: The planning committee was comprised of a University of Pittsburgh alumni, Pat Quinn, from Novo Nordisk, the chapter president, P1 representative, and 7 volunteer student drivers.

Attendees: The group was comprised of first, second, and third year student pharmacists. Twenty nine student pharmacists from the University of Pittsburgh and one student pharmacist from Duquesne attended.

## **Audience and Involvement**

The trip was offered to all of the student pharmacists in the pharmacy school. Most attendees were either interested in pursuing a career in managed care, industry, or wanted to explore their options. The Associate Dean at University of Pittsburgh put the planning committee in contact with his colleague, Pat Quinn. Mr. Quinn was the contact person at Novo Nordisk and organized everything onsite. He recruited 11 pharmacists within the company to speak with the attendees.

## **Materials Needed**

- Transportation arrangements (private vehicles, rental cars, rental vans etc...)
- Dinner and Breakfast arrangements
- Hotel Reservations
- Gifts for the speakers

## **Follow Up**

Gifts were distributed at the conclusion of the day to the coordinator and pharmacists at Novo Nordisk. Personalized thank you emails were sent to the coordinators within the following week. Reimbursement was distributed to the volunteer drivers within a couple of weeks

## **Timeline/Checklist for Project:**

The actual event was held on Monday January 19<sup>th</sup> which was Martin Luther King Jr Day. We chose to plan the event over the holiday because the University did not have classes but Novo Nordisk was still open. Due to the distance, attendees travelled on Sunday and returned to school Monday evening. (See chart below)

## **Project Evaluation**

### What went well?

The attendees appeared to really love the meet and greet with the pharmacists. The networking was invaluable and Novo Nordisk created 2 APPE rotations as a result of this visit. The pharmacists were impressed with the quality and enthusiasm of our questions. The tour was also a huge hit with the attendees.

### What didn't work?

More time could be allocated on Q&A sessions next year. Also, we looked into the possibility of renting vans or buses, however, the holiday made it too expensive.

### Changes for the next year:

Collect money for registration before winter break so attendees will not be able to back out at last minute. This would enable planning to be done earlier.

## Timeline for Implementation

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Mid October	Expressed interest in planning a trip to a pharma company to our dean	President and Dean
Late October	Started communication with Pat Quinn about the logistic of setting up a day for students	President and Coordinator
November	Created a tentative agenda for the day once at the company	President and Coordinator
Early December	Advertised the trip to the student body to generate interest and gave Pat Quinn a tentative headcount.	President
Mid December	Emailed out a sign-up sheet to students and set a registration deadline for January 5 <sup>th</sup>	President
January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Created the budget by calculating travel expenses and hotel costs. Collected deposits from students and gave Pat a final headcount.	President and P1 Representative
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Made hotel and dinner reservations. Confirmed volunteer student drivers and assigned students to vehicles and hotel rooms.	President, P1 Representative, and Volunteer Drivers
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Departed from Pittsburgh at 12:30pm and arrived in Plainsboro at 6:30pm. Checked into the hotel and attended dinner at a local restaurant at 7:30pm.	30 Student pharmacists
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Arrived at Novo Nordisk at 8:30am and departed by 2:30pm. Returned to Pittsburgh by 8:30pm.	30 Student pharmacists