

PHARMACY PERSPECTIVE

Nevada Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Pharmacy Paradigm Shift

The pharmacy profession has continued to receive a negative outlook from the opening of new schools, job saturation, and automation. It is no secret, especially to new graduates, that positions within community pharmacies are declining due to mail order and online pharmacies. These services require fewer pharmacists, who can also work remotely for multiple locations. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' projects that there will be little to no change in the amount of pharmacist jobs from 2018 to 2028.

The projection is "little to no change", but this statement heavily depreciates the pharmacy profession undergoing a dramatic shift toward pharmacists outside of the community setting, such as institutional or ambulatory care practices. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists provided insight after releasing their 2020 Phase I results on how the profession is adapting towards this change, "Over the last five years, PGY1 residency positions have grown by 27% and PGY2 positions by 56%. Specifically, PGY2 programs in ambulatory care residencies grew by 85%, infectious disease residencies by 66%, and critical care residencies by 34%.

Expansive growth also occurred in emergency medicine residencies, which grew by 141%, and in pain management and palliative care residencies, which increased by 145". These statistics show the increasing demand for advanced training post-graduation to fulfill the role



pharmacists have taken as a part of the multidisciplinary team. Furthermore, the growth in residency positions does not include the surge of opportunities through fellowships and industry for pharmacists. It appears that the pharmacy profession's new norm will eventually require post-graduate training.

PHARMACY PERSPECTIVE

Nevada Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Continued from previous page...

Despite the ominous projections, there is plenty of hope for the future of pharmacy. We are experiencing an unprecedented change within our profession that requires time to unfold. As residency programs and fellowships continue to grow, so should our investment in the upcoming generation of pharmacists through education and mentorship. Schools need to provide student pharmacists with the resources to explore different pharmacy specialties outside of the community setting. There will always be a need for community pharmacists; it may just look different than what we're used to seeing in the near future. It would be a disservice to student pharmacists to not consider the expansive field of pharmacy. Additionally, there should be an emphasis on organizational involvement, as this may provide further exposure to various practices and professional development opportunities outside of the didactic classroom. Current preceptors have to encourage a learning environment tailored towards students discovering their passion within pharmacy and provide mentorship on selecting a career path. Only time will tell on the true direction of pharmacy; we need to be more proactive rather than reactive to ensure avenues for pharmacists to continue practicing at the top of their license.

NVSHP would like to thank Mark Nguyen, PharmD, a pharmacy resident at Dignity Health St. Rose Dominican—Siena Campus for the content of this article.