

Drug Use Management and Policy Research Residency Program

College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 3J5

<http://impart.pharmacy.dal.ca>

The Drug Use Management and Policy Research Residency Program, introduced in May 2001, is a key component of the Chair held by Dr. Ingrid Sketris at Dalhousie University's College of Pharmacy, which is sponsored by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, Canadian Institute of Health Research and Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation. The purpose of this 17 week program, which is open to graduate students and fellows, is to enhance the use of research evidence in policy-making for drug use management. The program goals are to: (1) create policy relevant research information; (2) facilitate interaction among residents, faculty, and decision-makers on specific projects; (3) learn about how research is used in decision-making; and (4) assist junior (uninitiated) health service researchers to understand decision-makers' information needs and preferences. This program concentrates on enriching research skills of both student and decision-maker, and it requires graduate students to work on projects involving research and knowledge synthesis in a policy-making environment rather than a clinical practice setting.

The roles and responsibilities of the academic and community partners is clearly documented in a program manual, ensuring sensitivity to issues such as intellectual property, rights to publish, guidelines for review of proposals by ethics and requirements of the residency site. It provides explicit instructions concerning the application and placement process, a detailed learning agreement to be developed with the student prior to the start of the residency, and requirements for assessment at the end of the residency. Integral to the process is an appropriate student/resident-host organization/preceptor match and the viability of the project proposal. Networking is facilitated through organized orientation sessions and bi-weekly knowledge development and skills building workshops.

A results based management accountability framework, developed for the Residency program, includes a logic model and an accountability matrix which identifies possible indicators and data sources for short and medium term outputs/goals and long term impacts. External reviewers have examined the program's operation and resident learning and knowledge utilization by the community from the research and policy projects.

A complete listing of residency projects and associated journal articles can be found on the web site for the Initiative for Medication Management, Policy analysis, Research and Training, College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, <http://impart.pharmacy.dal.ca>

CONTACT

Ingrid Sketris, PharmD, MPA (HSA)
CHSR/CIHR Chair, College of Pharmacy
902-494-3755

Ingrid.Sketris@dal.ca