Development of an Academic Service-Learning HIV Professional Elective Course for Pharmacy Students

John M. Conry, Pharm.D., BCPS, AAHIVP, Tina J. Kanmaz, Pharm.D., Tomasz Z. Jodlowski, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), AAHIVP

Associate Clinical Professors of Clinical Pharmacy Practice
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Queens, NY

Objectives

Develop a capstone elective course within the Pharm.D. program that facilitates the development of skills/competencies necessary for the provision of pharmaceutical care to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and incorporates academic service-learning (AS-L).

Methods

Faculty developed a 3-credit didactic capstone course for 6th year Pharm.D. students entitled, "Comprehensive Management of HIV/AIDS." To enhance the learning experience and create an AS-L opportunity, faculty developed partnerships with two NYC-based institutions that provide services to PLWHA. One AS-L partnership ("AID for AIDS") engaged students in an antiretroviral recycling program that transports these medications overseas to underserved areas. The other AS-L partnership ("Mapplethorpe") is a residential treatment facility that paired students with a PLWHA. The student visited the patient during this longitudinal care experience throughout the semester to review and optimize medication management. Students voluntarily completed an anonymous survey at the end of course. A compilation of 2012 and 2013 survey data are presented here.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to our wonderful community partners, the Robert Mapplethorpe Residential Treatment Facility and AID for AIDS, as well as the Office of Academic Service-Learning at St. John’s University.

Course Description and Assessment

This course is intended for pharmacy students to facilitate the development of the skills and competencies necessary for the provision of pharmaceutical care to patients infected with HIV. The course is intended to review the pharmacologic management of HIV infection and associated AIDS indicator conditions. Emphasis is placed on patient assessment and the development of pharmaceutical care plans for patients living with HIV. The course employs interactive lecture discussions and individual and group presentations. Student assessment includes midterm examination (35%), final examination (35%), 2 case studies (20%), and 1 project (10%). The project consisted of in-class topic presentations, debates, and AS-L case presentations.

AS-L Overview

AS-L at St. John’s University is a classroom/experiential site-based program that involves students in some form of required community service to benefit the common (public) good and uses service as a means of understanding course concepts. The service activity meets the class for their assigned patient at the end of the course. A compilation of 2012 and 2013 survey data are presented here.

Survey Question | 2012 (n=16/20) | 2013 (n=16/16) | Total (n=32/32; 100%)
---|---|---|---
Course Satisfaction | 14/16 (87.5%) Very satisfied | 15/16 (93.8%) Very satisfied | 29/32 (90.6%)
Course Assessment Appropriate | 15/16 (93.8%) Yes | 16/16 (100%) Yes | 31/32 (96.9%)
AID for AIDS Participation | 16/16 (100%) | 16/16 (100%) | 32/32 (100%)
AID for AIDS Enhanced Understanding of Course Objectives | 13/16 (81.3%) | 5/16 (31.3%) | 18/32 (56.3%)
AID for AIDS Impacted Global View of HIV/AIDS Participation | 15/16 (93.8%) Yes | 14/16 (87.5%) Yes | 29/32 (90.6%)
Mapplethorpe Participation | 5/16 (31.3%) | 5/16 (31.3%) | 10/32 (31.3%)
Mapplethorpe Service Enhanced Understanding of Course Objectives | 5/5 (100%) Yes | 5/5 (100%) Yes | 10/10 (100%)
Mapplethorpe Service Impacted Your View of HIV/AIDS | 5/5 (100%) | 5/5 (100%) | 10/10 (100%)

Student Testimonials

AID for AIDS Experience: “HIV/AIDS is not only a problem in the US, it is actually worse in underdeveloped countries. AID for AIDS showed just how scarce and necessary such assistance is.”

Mapplethorpe Experience: “My favorite activity was undoubtedly the AS-L at Mapplethorpe. It was truly inspirational and mind-set changing. I’m grateful for this opportunity.”

Implications

This HIV elective course provided pharmacy students with an innovative opportunity to enhance their awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS. The faculty are committed to continued evaluations and strengthening of our course and community partnerships to enhance student learning and public health.