



Pharmacists Support New Fellowship Program in HB 5030

The Oregon State Pharmacy Association and the Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists support the proposed Fellowship Program in the Board of Pharmacy's budget, HB 5030, between Pacific University and the Oregon Board of Pharmacy.

This innovative program would be the first in the country and creates a unique solution to an identified need for the pharmacy profession. There is a lack of needed training for pharmacists desiring to enter into academia or regulatory positions. Most of the candidates who enter into these fields have little experience and require significant on-the-job training to become proficient in these roles. The provision of a fellowship training program prepares candidates for these necessary roles and can significantly reduce recruitment and training costs for open positions. Even if the candidate did not enter into one of these fields, there isn't a pharmacy practice site that would not appreciate a pharmacist versed in regulatory issues or expertise in training students during their practicum experiences.

There is also a direct benefit for the sponsoring organizations. An article from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy discusses the value of pharmacy post-graduate training programs (Pharmacotherapy, 2010;30(12):490e-510e). Among the reasons cited, some highlights include:

- A pharmacist-level resource at a reduced cost
- Projects completed by the fellow are instrumental in advancing initiatives for the sponsoring organizations
- Increased capacity of current faculty and staff
- Increased job satisfaction and retention for staff interfacing with the learner.

In conclusion, OSPA and OSHP believes in the value of this program and supports the creation and development of the proposed Academic and Regulatory Fellowship Program.