Building a Unique Specialty Pharmacy Rotation
Daniel Jude, PharmD, AAHIVP, CSP, Travis Fransen, PharmD, MBA, Angela Wood, PharmD, BCSP, BCOP, CSP, Julia Rumley, PharmD

POURPOSE / BACKGROUND
- Residencies in specialty pharmacy are increasing across the United States as more health systems grow their specialty pharmacy services. Advanced Practice Pharmacy Experiences (APPEs) focused on building foundational specialty pharmacy skills are critical to foster interest in specialty pharmacy and improve the quality of specialty pharmacists.
- An innovative specialty pharmacy APPE was crafted and implemented at a health system in the Twin Cities Area of Minnesota.

OBJECTIVES
We review implementation, structure, student feedback, and educational pearls from the 2020-2021 academic year.

METHODS
- A Patient Care Elective format was utilized as the template for the experience due to the patient-oriented, clinical model of the specialty pharmacy program.
- Due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, each rotation length was reduced to 4-weeks.
- Prior to or on their first day, all students except the first were sent a survey to assist with determining background knowledge of specialty pharmacy and their goals for the rotation.
- Ongoing occurred the first week, including review of general pharmacy topics: definition of specialty medications, specialty pharmacy business models, reimbursement, limited distribution drugs, payer access, clinical program structures, accreditation, safety, and adverse event reporting.
- To ensure appropriate representation of specialty pharmacy disease states, the students spent time at different specialty pharmacy practice sites with different specialty pharmacy preceptors for at least 1-week intervals with weekly deliverables (table 1).
- Weekly deliverables were presented at “Feedback Friday” time slots on Fridays at 12

RESULTS
A patient care APPE was incredibly successful in the health system and specialty clinics. Career goals were consistently made the focal point of all clinical discussions.

Student Pre-Rotation Survey (n=9)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>All Clinical Students</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1 How much experience have you had in the field of specialty pharmacy?</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 What are you hoping to learn during this rotation? (multiple choice)</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3 How comfortable are you with navigating a patient through the entirety of the patient care process in a specialty pharmacy setting with what you currently know?</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT COMMENTS
- "This rotation was very unique and much different from my other rotation. I have learned a lot more about the treatment and medication management of patients with uncommon health conditions, especially HIV. It was challenging, given that a journal club and patient case presentations was expected every week about antiretroviral therapy, hematology, oncology, and cardiology, while learning from knowledgeable pharmacists in each category."
- "I appreciated the challenge of doing a journal club and patient case presentation every week. I enjoyed being able to relate the two weekly projects and really dig into a topic. I also really liked that I was able to split time between the different specialty areas, I think that was really helpful to see how each are different but also related as a whole."
- "...I wish I had this experience sooner as I have grown in my interest in specialty pharmacy and may want to pursue a career in it someday..."
- "Each day felt very productive, and my interest in specialty pharmacy developed throughout the experience, which I can credit to the enthusiasm with which the preceptors tasked their responsibilities both as a pharmacist and as an educator. I would recommend this rotation site to any of my peers regardless of their interest in specialty pharmacy."
- "I really appreciated [the preceptors] relating this experience to my interest in managed care as much as possible. I was also really being able to complete a journal club weekly so I could apply feedback from previous weeks and get more practice."