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FIP PRESS RELEASE

Lots of Career Opportunities in Pharmacy

The pharmaceutical field tries to attract students to make them chose an active career as health care providers. Some community pharmacies, for instance, can offer professional career planing, a challenging job, and the other elements needed to create a dynamic working place. The organisers of Student's Day in Vancouver had invited a couple of employers to give their input on an active career - and around 70, mainly young participants of course, were interested in listening to their messages.

' I sometimes cannot believe they pay me to do what I do,' explained Bill Felkey of Auburn University at the FIP Congress in Vancouver. Felkey was one of four speakers who presented four different areas of the pharmacy profession: academia, administration, industry, and community.

Felkey is a pharmacy professor who utilises technology as much as possible in his classes. His classes are paperless and assignments are given to students through the Internet.

' Job satisfaction came from his opportunity to shape future pharmacists, and in doing so effect how those pharmacists dealt with patients.'

Felkey also runs an outreach program which in 18 hours trains people so that they can use Windows 95 and Microsoft Office.

During the community pharmacy presentation, Vinnie Krogh, and four other pharmacists that work with her in Denmark, reinforced the idea of goal setting in life. They explained that a 110% goal should be defined. Then work backwards and set up small goals to achieve.

' A good community pharmacy should have enough staff, a professional environment, communication with employees, and a good atmosphere. Moreover, continuing education is also important' , Mrs. Krogh stated.

The audience also broke up into small groups to discuss about what they thought was important for a good pharmacy practice. Afterwards their thoughts were shared with the other groups. And they did not necessarily reach the same conclusions!

James Appleby of APHA, and an honorary life member of IPSF, stressed that a sound process of evaluation must be used to make choices. He introduced the vigilant decision making process, which is a part of the Glaxo Pathways Program used by many North American pharmacy students to help them decide on a pharmacy career.

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