

ASHP Member Spotlight

Name: Andrew N. Schmelz, Pharm.D.

Specialty:

Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Purdue University



Role:

The responsibilities of a Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow closely mimic those of a practicing clinical faculty member. For teaching, I prepare and deliver several lectures each semester to a variety of student audiences, including students in nursing, physical therapy, pharmacy, and graduate-level programs. I facilitate lab exercises and co-precept students in the practice sites in which I work. I am also involved with the development of new elective courses, including a new diabetes elective course and a clerkship preparation course. Clinically, I practice with pharmacists in the ambulatory care setting managing medications for patients with multiple disease states. Because this is a fellowship program, I am also expected to conduct research under the guidance of several faculty mentors in the Department.

How They Got There:

Although choosing a career path during pharmacy school had been an exceptional challenge for me, my passion for working with students eventually led me to academia as a career path. Ambulatory care also became a strong interest of mine during rotations, and I soon began looking for residency programs with rigorous ambulatory care and teaching components. I found only a few such programs and interviewed with those in the geographic vicinity. Around this time, I was contacted by my mentor (with whom I had just completed a 4-week academic rotation) who had identified me as a candidate for a new teaching fellowship in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. I seized the opportunity, and was charged with developing the fellowship program to best suit my needs for career development.

Other Professional Activities:

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- Indiana College of Clinical Pharmacy
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Advanced Training:

- Doctor of Pharmacy, Purdue University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Purdue University

- Indiana Pharmacy Teaching Certificate Program

Advice:

Never be afraid of trying something new or taking an unusual path to reach a desired endpoint. It is always prudent to ask careful questions, but sometimes taking a risk is necessary to be happy. In the words of Robert F. Kennedy, "Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly."